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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 186

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75¢

'Ayuda Luta' relief drive raises over $8K for Rota

COASTAL CLEANUP
Members of Saipan Centennial Lions Club, the newly inducted club to be chartered under the worldwide service organization Lions Club International, participate in the annual International Coastal Cleanup held last Saturday on Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story on Page 3

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan community came together last Saturday to aid those affected by Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota and managed to raise over $8,000 in monetary donations and fill three 10-foot cargo containers at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The cargo containers, filled with relief goods, arrived on the island of Rota via a Pacific Marine Enterprises ferry last Tuesday.

The relief goods were collected during the Ayuda Luta

See AYUDA on Page 4

ARC sets up temp shelters on Rota

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter continues its humanitarian efforts on the island of Rota where most devastation occurred in the CNMI caused by Typhoon Mangkhut.

As of press time, personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services erected a total of 13 FEMA-issued tents for displaced families.

Red Cross expected to put up six more tents to accommodate all the families who sustained major damage from Typhoon Mangkhut.

Shelters are expected to close by 7pm this evening.

Randy Neeman, ARC disaster lead who has been spearheading Rota preliminary damage assessments, said, "We want to assure the CNMI community that Red Cross is currently as-

See ARC on Page 4

4-year delay in green card petition prompts suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A U.S. citizen who lives in New York and her Taiwanese father who lives in the CNMI are suing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials for what they claim has been a four-year delay in adjudicating his green card petition.

Alicia Yen and her father, Yen Chien-Li, filed the lawsuit on Tuesday in federal court against USCIS District 26 director David Gulick, USCIS director L. Francis Cissna, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen, for alleged violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Yen and Chien-Li, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, want the U.S. District Court for the NMI to rule that USCIS' failure to act on their petition is "arbitrary, capricious, short of statutory right, and without observance of procedure required by law."

Yen and Chien-Li asked the court to order Gulick, Cissna, and Nielsen to already adjudicate their pending petition and

See 4-YEAR on Page 4

Kilili on STEP: Govt failed to meet initial deadline

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» Says he made reopening possible

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) had positive words yesterday for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, but leavened it immediately with a clarification that it was his action that allowed the CNMI to apply for the grant program that was eventually successful.

In a press conference at his office in Susupe that he said was intended to set the record straight, Sablan congratulated Torres for the administration's success in getting the CNMI's application for the State Trade Expansion Program—a $150,000 federal grant program—approved.

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INSIDE

NATION
North Carolina's governor is pleading with thousands of evacuees to be patient

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WORLD
A Russian aircraft is shot down by Syrian forces responding to an Israeli airstrike.

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LIFE & STYLE
Bob Woodward's "Fear" is already a million-seller.

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Local

Manglona wants quarrying regs temporarily suspended in CNMI

A Rota legislator has written the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ask that regulations on quarrying and mining operations on the island be temporarily suspended to help the rebuilding efforts in the CNMI's southernmost island.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) wants regulations set by the Mining Safety and Health Administration on quarrying and mining on Rota be temporarily lifted. The suspension would allow private companies to begin quarrying operations that would help in Rota's rebuilding projects, Manglona said.

His letter was addressed to David Gervino, the external affairs officer of the Incident Management Assistance Team of FEMA that is one of the agencies under the Department of Homeland Security.

Typhoon Mangkhut last week left considerable damage on government and private infrastructures, homes, and other properties on the island of Rota. Strong winds brought down power poles, telephone lines, and damaged homes.

Manglona said a state of emergency declaration by President Donald Trump has authorized FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts for Rota.

"Although Typhoon Mangkhut caused damage on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, the island of Rota was directly hit by the typhoon and suffered the most severe damage, including structural damages that will require quarry products, such as aggregates and manufactured sands, to be rebuilt or repaired," Manglona said in the letter.

"However, the problem is that there is no operating quarry on Rota at this time. Currently, if there is any construction project that requires quarry materials, the products are shipped to Rota from Saipan, which is very cost-prohibitive and time-consuming. Concrete masonry units or hollow blocks, which cannot be produced without manufactured sand, are also presently being shipped from Saipan."

He said that two private quarrying companies have shown willingness to assist Rota in gathering and providing quarry materials during this emergency declaration but the MSHA regulations currently prohibit mining operations.

"One of the obstacles of operating a quarry on Rota is the application of the MSHA regulations in the CNMI, including the island of Rota. Temporary suspension of the MSHA regulations for three to four months would allow quarries [on] Rota to be opened quickly to assist in the typhoon relief efforts," said Manglona.

"At the same time, quarry operators can work with MSH to ensure long-term compliance of the regulations. The MSHA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, thus the request for temporary suspension of the MSH regulations must be made to the [Labor] secretary."

He added that he wrote to FEMA to ask the agency to request Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta to suspend MSHA regulations for three to four months since it is currently authorized in coordinating Rota's typhoon relief efforts because of the state of emergency declaration. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Int'l coastal cleanup nets over 5,500 lbs of trash

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's participation in the International Coastal Cleanup netted over 5,500 lbs of trash.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality led this year's International Coastal Cleanup, according to coordinator Mallory Muña.

In all, a total of 34 organizations registered for the event and a total of 5,538 lbs of trash were collected from Saipan's coastlines.

"The participants…effectively prevented that trash from making its way into our oceans," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some of the organizations that participated in the cleanup include Marianas Young Professionals at Tanapag Beach, Docomo Pacific CNMI at Oleai Beach, DFS Saipan at the Old Man by the Sea, U.S. National Park Service at Micro Beach and American Memorial Park, Saipan Centennial Lions Club at the San Antonio Carolinian Utt, the Northern Marianas College Environmental Natural Resources Organization, or ENRO, at Laolao Beach, Saipan Southern High School's Youth Environmental Ambassadors Club at Ladder Beach, Saipan Southern High School at the Koblerville Roadside, and Herman's Modern Bakery at the Unai Dungkulu area and Coral Ocean Point area, to name a few.

The island-wide cleanup was the CNMI's participation in the Ocean Conservancy's 32nd International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to remove trash from beaches, waterways, lakes, rivers, and parks.

Since the first International Coastal Cleanup 32 years ago, over 12 million volunteers have removed more than 228 million lbs of trash that have ended up in various types of waterways.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the 2017 International Coastal Cleanup yielded 1,040 volunteers that recovered 5,491 lbs of trash.

Volunteers of the National Park Services pose with the 107 lbs trash they collected from the Micro Beach and American Memorial Park areas.

ERWIN ENCINARES

SUIT SETTLED, PARTIES AGREE TO DROP CASE

CNMI govt and Fund agree to pay Taisague his retirement benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund have agreed that retiree Jesus I. Taisague shall be paid all of the retirement benefits that he is entitled to under the Fund as part of their settlement deal.

According to the settlement agreement, Taisague would receive retirement benefits from the Fund in the amount of $2,286 monthly or $27,432 annually.

Tenorio

Taisague is a member of the Defined Benefit Plan of the NMI Retirement Fund. He retired from the CNMI government on Dec. 6, 1998.

Taisague is presently receiving all of his retirement benefits from the Fund (including all bonuses).

In 2013, Taisague sued then-governor Eloy S. Inos, the CNMI government, Department of Finance, and the NMI Retirement Fund for entering into a settlement agreement with Betty Johnson's class action that, according to him, was unconstitutional and illegal.

He asserted claims for breach of contract and other causes of action relating to the nonpayment of his full retirement benefits.

With the settlement, Taisague, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, and Deputy Attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI Tuesday their agreement to drop the case. Taisague can no longer re-file his lawsuit.

The signatories of the settlement deal are Taisague, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

The parties said this agreement is a compromise settlement of a disputed claim or claims. They said the agreement shall not be deemed or construed at any time to be an admission of liability by any party.

Under the agreement, in the event the defendants fail to pay Taisague's retirement benefits, plaintiff shall be entitled to costs and attorney's fees in the amount approved by the court.

The defendants shall pay Taisague costs taxed in the amount of $500. Each party shall be responsible for paying their own attorney fees.

In December 2013, the court denied Taisague's motion to prevent Inos and the CNMI government from withholding or failing to pay 100 percent of his pension benefits.

Taisague was among the 16 who opted out of the Johnson settlement agreement.

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Early voting for NI residents starts Saturday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is in the process of chartering a ship for a trip to the Northern Islands as early voting for those residing there will start this Saturday.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol told S*aipan Tribune* yesterday that based on their last information, there are 16 people on Pagan, four on Alamagan, and six on Agrihan.

Igitol said she will talk with Northern Islands Mayor Northern Islands Mayor Vicente B. Santos today, Thursday, to get information as to how many of those 26 are voters for the islands.

As of Sept. 14, there are 175 total Northern Islands' voters, including those who are currently staying there, Igitol said.

She said the ballots are expected to arrive on Saipan tomorrow, Friday.

The administrative officer said although the early voting for those residing on the Northern Islands starts this Saturday, CEC has a 45-day window to do it.

That means the CEC does not have to obtain by Saturday the early votes from those residing on the Northern Islands.

The seven-day early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will commence on Oct. 30.

Igitol said early voting for Northern Islands' voters who are residing on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will also take place in that period.

4-YEAR

From Page 1

to hold them liable for court costs and attorney's fees.

According to Horey in the complaint, Yen filed the application with USCIS on Dec. 8, 2014, on behalf of her father, Chien-Li, to have him classified as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen.

That same day, Chien-Li filed with USCIS an I-485 application for adjustment of status to that of lawful permanent resident based on his family relationship to Yen.

In January 2015, Yen and Chien-Li received a request for evidence from USCIS for information about a sponsor. They replied a month later, citing Chien-Li's brother, who is a U.S. citizen living in the State of Virginia.

Since then, Horey said, the plaintiffs have contacted USCIS on several occasions to follow up on the status of their petition and application.

For example, Horey said, Chien-Li followed up at the Saipan Application Support Center on at least nine times from May 26, 2015, to June 5, 2017.

Chien-Li has also contacted USCIS in writing on Nov. 3, 2015, May 5, 2016, and Feb. 8, 2017.

Horey said Chien-Li has received only vague responses to his inquiries such as: "Your petition/application is still pending consideration," "We regret we are not able to give you a timeframe for when we will complete the review of your petition/application," "Our records show that your Form I-485 is currently pending adjudication."

To this date, Horey said, plaintiffs' petition and application have not been adjudicated and they have received no further news of any progress toward adjudication.

"Defendants owe a duty to plaintiffs to adjudicate their petition and application, and to do so without unreasonable delay," the lawyer asserted.

Horey said a two years' delay in adjudicating a green card petition and application is unreasonable.

"The period of delay in this case has been nearly four years," said Horey, adding that there are no special circumstances or other reasons justifying the lengthy delay.

He said Yen and her father are entitled to a writ of mandamus requiring USCIS to fulfill its duty.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act, Horey pointed out, the reviewing court is authorized to "compel agency action unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed."

"The failure to adjudicate plaintiffs' petition and application has been arbitrary, capricious, short of statutory right, and without observance of procedure required by law," he said.

AYUDA

From Page 1

Relief Drive that took place last Saturday—a collaborative effort among the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the CNMI Fire and EMS Association, the Office of the Governor, the CNMI Women's Association, and various government agencies.

The CNMI Fire and EMS Association also did a boot drive during the relief operation. A similar boot drive was held on Tinian and the $8,000 that was raised was a compilation of all the money raised from both boot drives, according to first lady Diann Torres. The exact amount was not immediately available.

Torres said the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive was such a success that it exceeded the initial number of containers they were planning to send to Rota.

The initial plan was to ship out two 10-foot containers filled with relief goods to the island of Rota. One container was originally set to be shipped out this week, and the second was set to be shipped out next week after the next scheduled drive.

Due to the amount of support the relief drive received from the Saipan community, all two containers were filled on the first drive and a third container was needed and was also immediately filled.

Torres said the relief drive was a major success and individuals affected by Typhoon Mangkhut will receive everything they could possibly need like clothing, food, water, weather heads, and more.

Torres credited the success of the relief drive not only to the agencies that helped coordinate the event, but to those who gave their time and donations, including private companies and various schools. "Without them, success wouldn't have been possible," she added.

The goods from the relief drive were distributed to Typhoon Mangkhut victims yesterday, with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself personally helping out.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said it was overwhelming to see the outpouring of support they have gotten from both Saipan and Tinian communities.

"It was overwhelming to see the outpouring of support from our brothers and sisters from Saipan and Tinian…. I am so happy, no words can describe how happy we are," he said. "Times like these really show that if we work together, recovery is faster,."

Ayuda Luta was able to gather disaster relief supplies such as food, water, portable gas stoves and butane, cleaning supplies, fans, clothing, school supplies, and toiletries for the impacted families.

Monetary donations collected during the boot drives will be disbursed by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter this week to families most in need post-Mangkhut.

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist in the distribution of disaster emergency supplies to households.

The ARC advises that disaster emergency supply kits will be distributed evenly to all households on Rota.

"We will be going house-to-house beginning at 1PM today and will continue to do so for the next two days until each household is in receipt of a disaster supply kit as supplied by the Ayuda Luta donation drive," said Randy Neeman, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter disaster lead.

The American Red Cross will not be distributing any supplies out of their distribution center. Instead, volunteers will be assisting with ensuring supply kits are delivered to each family on island directly to their homes. If residents are not home, volunteers will leave the supply kit by their doorsteps.

Also available for disaster relief through the Ayuda Luta Drive are bottles of water and clothing for adults and children.

ARC

From Page 1

sisting in distributing needed supplies to impacted families. We want to thank Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and the people of Saipan for their generous donations as well. It really is a collaborative effort, and we are thankful for this special partnership we're experiencing during this response. The CNMI government's generosity is something rarely seen in different parts of the world, and we can't express enough how impressed we are with their willingness to cooperate and assist. This is truly something special."

The American Red Cross is helping shelterees get to their "new normal" by building temporary housing tents supplied by FEMA. Additionally, case workers are visiting destroyed and major classifications for direct client assistance. Residents become eligible for direct client assistance when their household has experienced structural damage. Structural damages are classified as such when a home's framework has been compromised due to severe impairment of a home's skeletal support structure. To provide further clarification, if tin has been separated from a home's skeletal structure but its wooden frame is still intact, residents will not qualify for direct client assistance. However, if the wooden structure of a home has become impaired and requires reinforcement or replacement to its wooden frame, residents will qualify for financial aid under this program.

"The work the American Red Cross is producing to decrease the number of displaced shelterees is commendable. What we're doing on Rota is a whole team effort, and the partnership we've developed throughout this response showcases further the true power of what can be accomplished when we choose to work together. I want to thank the Red Cross for assisting our families in this time of need. I also want to thank HSEM and DFEMS for providing us with the manpower to complete the tent home installations. I'm truly impressed with this team," said Torres.

Computer equipment

Torres surprised the Rota Health Center yesterday with brand new computer equipment.

Rota Health Center resident director Vanessa Quitugua said in a room full of RHC staff and personnel yesterday, "Thank you to our governor for responding to our AOC's technological needs by providing us with the 10 computers to assist us as we serve our community during this recovery period. From the bottom of our hearts, on behalf of [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], CEO [Esther] Muña and the RHC staff, we thank you."

After tagging of equipment through Saipan's Procurement Office, Torres turned over the 10 all-in-one desktop computers and a printer to Rota's only hospital.

A scanner is currently en route for delivery to the Rota facility as well.

Prior to the equipment purchase, the hospital's Agency Operations Center was equipped with only four units. With the supply of the new computers, Torres hopes to increase the island's only health facility's capabilities.

"I want to thank you all for your hard work. I recognize the work you do for the people of Rota and want to show my appreciation by providing you all with basic necessities. Thank you all for the service you provide for our people." ***(HSEM)***

KILILI

From Page 1

He noted, though, that the Torres administration actually missed the first deadline and that he made possible the reopening of the application window.

"I went to the [Small Business Administration] to ask if they could reopen the application window so [the CNMI] could submit their application," he said.

The program, according to Sablan, did not initially include the CNMI, but in 2012, as U.S. Congress was drafting the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013, Sablan inserted the language to include the CNMI in STEP. Since then, he said, the CNMI has been applying annually for the program.

However, the Torres administration failed to submit the STEP application for fiscal year 2018 within the application window, Sablan said, prompting him to reach out to the SBA to reopen the application.

"They missed the deadline for applying this year...When [the SBA] said yes [to the application window reopening], I alerted the governor of this second chance and told them they would allow us to submit an application and that they would accept it despite it being past the deadline," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Sablan sent a June 20, 2018, letter to the governor informing him of the second chance the SBA gave the CNMI to apply for the grant.

"This follow-on opportunity will only be available for a short period of time, however. So, I wanted to alert you and [STEP coordinator Frank Cabrera], in the event an application from the Marianas has not been forthcoming. That the opportunity remains available, if an applicant in the Marianas can act quickly," he had said.

In a July 21, 2018, letter, Torres thanked Sablan for the heads-up.

"Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention," Torres wrote. "It is the policy of this administration to support opportunities that would continue to expand economic development, as well as programs that foster entrepreneurship and building the Commonwealth's workforce capacity."

Sablan responded to Torres' July 21, 2018 letter with another letter dated July 24, 2018, expressing his gratitude for the successful submission of the application.

In a Sept. 19, 2018, press release, the Torres administration noted that the CNMI has been awarded $150,000 in STEP funding.

STEP is designed to increase both the number of small businesses that begin to export and the value of exports for small businesses currently exporting.

In 2017, the CNMI was awarded $142,000 in STEP funds, for a two-year period, which is now working its way toward the fourth quarter into the program, which will end by 2019. The 2018 STEP award of $150,000 will be an additional two-year period funding, which ends by 2020.

Zoning OKs Island Apparel's relocation to Koblerville

The CNMI Zoning Board has approved Island Apparel's application for conditional use permit to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville, an area zoned as village commercial.

Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco, treasurer Mariano Taitano, secretary Joe Ayuyu Jr., and member Patrick Reyes unanimously approved the application during a board meeting Thursday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro said their staff has already reviewed the application of UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc., which owns Island Apparel, and found the application acceptable. She recommended approving the application if some conditions are met. That includes ensuring that its operation does not generate noise, odor, light, and dust that will affect the neighborhood. Island Apparel is also required to improve its parking area and designate clearly marked parking stalls in front of its establishment which conforms to parking requirements. Island Apparel must also clean and landscape the property.

Island Apparel is proposing to occupy an existing one-story building in Koblerville to make apparel.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), who supported the project, pointed out that UMDA has been doing good business in the CNMI for many years now. He thanked Island Apparel for choosing to renovate that building. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco and Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons listen to the presentation of Island Apparel during a board meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Interior extends support to USVI

WASHINGTON—Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, this week released an additional $198,051 in fiscal year 2018 technical assistance program grants for the U.S. Virgin Islands to help streamline the coordination of recovery assistance on St. Croix and to expand water storage capacity and upgrade irrigation systems in support of farmers on St. Thomas.

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has asked that the Department do all it can to support the recovery of the Virgin Islands from last year's storms," said Domenech. "These grants continue this effort."

USVI Department of Agriculture: $185,051 to construct a water cistern and upgrade existing irrigation and distribution capacity for farmers in the Bordeaux Farming Community on St. Thomas. A 100,000-gallon cistern will be built to augment the current storage capacity of 6,000 gallons, nearly doubling the number of farms served to twelve and allowing for increased food production locally. The USVI Department of Agriculture's goal has been to increase the amount of locally-grown fresh food and improve food security. Following the hurricanes in 2017, the territory was reduced to 100% reliance on food imports for several months.

St. Croix Foundation for Community Development: $13,000 will be used to develop a community-wide engagement initiative with Open Space Technology to facilitate recovery assistance needs and efforts across multiple agencies and organizations. The plan is to build upon successful recovery work that is already underway, highlight areas of concern, and foster greater collaboration across government, private sector, and philanthropic organizations throughout the community. The St. Croix Foundation is working in close collaboration with FEMA and other community leaders on this initiative.

Funding for these grants were made available through the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. Applications for these funds are generally submitted to OIA from October through May of each year. Once OIA receives appropriations from the U.S. Congress, the applications are reviewed and funds are awarded until they are exhausted.

OIA has done its best to support the USVI in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. All funding announcements that have been made on behalf of the USVI for fiscal year 2018 amount to $3 million, $1.2 million, $827,812, $567,500, and $223 million. ***(PR)***

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are beaches adjacent to the Sea Plane Ramp, DPW Channel Bridge, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Sugar Dock.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BREASTFEEDING
Foundation of Life
WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

WIC Receives Breastfeeding Bonus Award

The CNMI's Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) Program has been presented with a WIC Breastfeeding Performance Bonus Award by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This award, in the amount of $3,323, is given to states and/or territories that display "outstanding achievement in improving breastfeeding rates among WIC participants." Breastfeeding promotion and support is a priority in the WIC Program. Over the years, the Program has achieved many accomplishments in this area, and we continue to build upon these successes through various breastfeeding efforts.

On August 6 to 11, 2018, the CNMI WIC Program celebrated World Breast Feeding Week (#WBW2018). #WBW2018 actively ***informs*** people about the links between good nutrition, food security, poverty reduction, and breastfeeding; ***anchors*** breastfeeding as the foundation of life; ***engage*** with individuals and organizations for greater impact; and ***galvanize*** action to advance breastfeeding as part of good nutrition, food security and poverty reduction.

WIC continues to play a vital role in the promotion and support of breastfeeding. Access to Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, IBCLCs, lactation consultants and other lactation professionals help WIC elevate the capacity of breastfeeding to improve health outcomes of moms and babies. To learn more about WIC, their services, and how to reach your breastfeeding goals, please give them a call at (670) 664-4084.

#Breastfeeding is a universal solution that gives everyone a fair start in life and lays the foundation for women and children to survive AND thrive.

CNMI WIC

WIC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Marpac donates to Rota relief drive

MARPAC

The Marpac team with the company's donation From left, Michelle Villacrusis-Cruz, Marpac marketing coordinator; Felipe Mendiola, Marpac operations manager; Rusty Santos, Marpac operations rep.; Jarvin Mendiola, Marpac sales rep.; Michelle Concepcion, Marpac accounting rep.; Deverly Madracheluib, Marpac accounting rep.; and Ogie Pagcaliwagan, Marpac accounting manager.

Marpac Distributors Inc. donated essential items through the Ayuda Luta Rota Relief Drive last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base..

Cases of Scott toilet tissue and paper towels, Off insect repellent, Huggies wipes, and Wyp-All towels and trash bags were among the items that Marpac donated for families affected by Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota.

Typhoon Mangkhut devastated the CNMI, most especially Rota, on Sept. 10.

"We know what it's like to go through and struggle after a storm, with us just experiencing it three years ago after Typhoon Soudelor hit us," said Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney. "When it was us, we received a big outpouring of support, so we just tried to do our part and donate essential items that we know our neighbors [on] Rota would need. We're very happy that we were able to contribute."

Marpac also thanked those who organized the Ayuda Luta Rota Relief Drive that made their donation possible. ***(Marpac)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 04, 2018
5:00 PM, Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 09/13/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. Conditional Use Application #2018-1281: Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Board review and action on proposed ATV, UTV, Motorcycle Regs
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Magisland, LLC
dba: Saipan Beach Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: Thursday, October 04, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 03, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 24, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

III. Public Comment

IV. Adoption of Agenda

V. Adoption of Minutes

VI. Old Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (status)

VII. New Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement

1. To allow to operate less than 4-5 Star Facility
2. To allow to open Phase Development in Stages

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
KANNAT TABLA QUARRY OPERATION

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS SUPPLY, INC.
PERMIT NO. SMS-95-X-48

Pursuant to NMIAC § 15-10-220(a)(4), the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the Construction and Materials Supply, Inc. (CMS) quarry operation in Kannat Tabla, Saipan.

CMS is currently engaging in quarrying activities under Permit No. SMS-95-X-48. This activity is situated on Lot Nos. 035 H 01 and 035 H 02 measuring a total of about 60,481 square meters of public land, more or less.

The public hearing for the above-mentioned quarry operations is scheduled for **Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 5PM. The venue to be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 303, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304 or by fax at (670) 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at (670) 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project.

/s/Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Torres signs 3 bills into law

On Sept. 14, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres signed into law one House local bill and two Senate bills.

House Local Bill 20-76, D1, appropriates $722,000 from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to Tinian.

■ $80,000 for the Mayor of Tinian for Supplemental Medical Assistance;

■ $160,000 for medical subsistence allowance for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis, arrhytmia, hemophiliac, and post cerebral vascular accident patients of Tinian;

■ $53,000 for the Mayor of Tinian discretionary account;

■ $50,000 for Mayor of Tinian professional services;

■ $60,000 for municipal events but not limited to Taga Day, Inauguration, 2019 Pika Festival;

■ $100,000 for Mayor of Tinian municipal employees including the Tinian Municipal Treasury;

■ $40,000 for the Tinian DCCA Office of Aging van;

■ $20,000 excavator purchase for Department of Public Works;

■ $5,000 for the Tinian Teen Center;

■ $5,000 for the United Filipino Association on Tinian;

■ $5,000 for Tinian Amateur Sports Association;

■ $5,000 for St. Joseph School, Inc. operations;

■ $100,000 for the purchase of two vehicles, firearms, and equipment for Department of Public Safety;

■ $4,000 for Tinian DLNR Division of Quarantine uniform and equipment;

■ $15,000 for Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission;

■ $20,000 for Tinian Municipal Council operations and activities;

This bill was passed unanimously by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation and becomes Tinian Local Law 20-15.

Senate Bill 20-92 amends the terms of Commonwealth Ports Authority board members to ensure that they serve staggered terms of four years.

Offered by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua, this bill becomes Public Law 20-63.

Senate Bill 20-58 removes the payment requirement by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to the Commonwealth government. This bill assists CHCC by removing the financial strain of principal and interest due to the Marianas Public Land Trust line of credit obligation enacted by Public Law 17-76.

Offered by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar, this bill becomes Public Law 20-64. ***(PR)***

KSPN to record delegate debate

The U.S. Delegate Debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Marianas College has finally arrived.

Tonight, Sept. 20, 2018, hundreds of community members, business owners, first-time voters, concerned citizens, students, and supporters will hear directly from the CNMI's U.S. delegate candidates: incumbent Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and his challenger, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

This event will take place at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 6pm to 8:30pm. All tickets have been sold.

In addition to NMC's livestreaming, KSPN2 News will be present to record the debate to be broadcasted at a later date.

To watch the debate live,\ visit the Northern Marianas College Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa/ and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Group Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/1614723608777186/?ref=br_rs.

Stay updated with KSPN by visiting www.saipantv.com.

The chamber is a nonprofit organization with over 165 members. For more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Red Cross provides emergency aid to Mangkhut victims

The disaster relief team of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is providing emergency supplies to those impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut.

"We're prioritizing families whose homes were the most heavily damaged areas" said John Hirsh, executive director. "Our teams are [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota making assessments, meeting with disaster survivors, providing emergency recovery items and providing financial assistance."

Disaster program manager J.D. Tenorio said that families on Rota have been the most impacted by this storm "and we're focusing our relief efforts in the hardest hit villages. We want to relieve as much immediate suffering as we can by coordinating with all our partners to help the most vulnerable."

The Red Cross provides supplies such as tarps, clean up and hygiene kits, mosquito nets, water containers, totes, flashlights, gloves, shovels, and trash bags.

In addition, the Red Cross is visiting families with a nurse and a social worker. If a family has sustained major damage and needs Red Cross Support, they should call 234-3459 to set up an appointment with a trained caseworker.

Disaster assistance is free to families, made possible through donations. ***(PR)***

GREEN GALA SPONSOR
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager, Nick Nishikawa and Hyatt's management team present a donation to Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero as its sponsorship of last Friday night's Green Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. MINA

Myung Wook Park, chief executive officer of Micronesia Resort, Inc. joins Somia Quan, vice chair of Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's board; Roberta Guerrero, MINA executive director; Gloria Cavanaugh, general mManager of Pacific Islands Club, and management and staff of Kensington Hotel, Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, and MINA, as the company presents its sponsorship of last Friday night's Green Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. MINA

The management and staff of Joeten Enterprises present its emerald sponsorship of Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala to MINA's Tasi Watch rangers. The Green Gala was held last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. MINA

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

Introduction to Financial Statements

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
9:00am—11:00am
Location: Joeten Kiyu Public Library

Presented by:
David Burger, Certified Public Accountant
Burger • Comer • Magliari

Mr. Burger is a Certified Public Accountant in the Territory of Guam and in the CNMI, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Government Accountants and the Guam Society of CPAs.

Mr. Burger has served at all levels on a variety of audit, review, and compilation engagements. These engagements included hotels, wholesalers, retailers, construction companies, banks, credit unions, employee benefit plans, insurance companies, automobile dealers, bakeries, garment manufacturers, non-profit organizations and government agencies. The firm currently conducts over 80 audits annually.

He has also prepared eighteen business valuations and authored the chapter on "Business and Investment Climate" included in "An Economic Study for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" released in October 1999, along with authoring an update to that study in 2007.

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Limited Seating. Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com
For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

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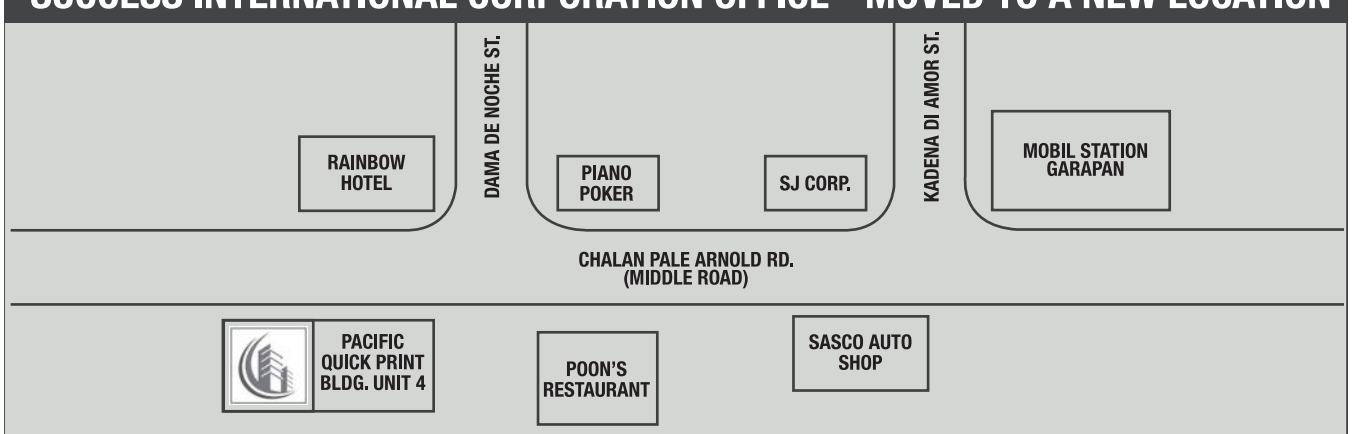
SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION OFFICE - MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION



SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
NEW HOPE CORPORATION
PMB 778 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 322-1558 / Fax: 322-1548 / Cell: 287-1698
Email: successfulmgj2010@gmail.com

SERVICES OFFERED: BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (GENERAL ENGINEERING, GENERAL CONSTRUCTION) • LAND SURVEYING ENGINEERING • AUTOCAD DRAWING BLUE PRINT • CONSTRUCTION DRAWING • AUTOCAD PLAN CONVERSION FROM CHINESE, JAPANESE, KOREAN TO AMERICAN STANDARD • LANDSCAPING AND GROUND MAINTENANCE • MANPOWER SERVICES • FACILITATING OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT PERMITS, SUCH AS: ZONING CLEARANCE (BECQ, FISH & WILDLIFE, HPO) • DPW BUILDING PERMIT AND CRM CLEARANCE • HEAVY & LIGHT EQUIPMENT RENTALS

691 cubic yards of Mangkhut debris collected on Saipan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office collected about 691 cubic yards of debris brought about the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino, they collected 691 cubic yards of green debris as of Monday afternoon.

Green debris pertains to leaves, branches, and other agricultural waste. To put into perspective, there is one cubic yard in one full load of the mayor's office's dump truck.

Aquino noted that the collection of green debris was initiated even before Mangkhut left the CNMI.

"We utilized all our trailers, our claw truck, our backhoe, and our dump truck to [collect] the debris," she said, adding that the office continues to work on debris removal.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* that there are several other areas on Saipan that still needs\ help cleaning up.

"We are still going around the other villages. We have been to Koblerville, Kagman I, II, and III, San Vicente, Dandan, and more and we are still working on the northern part of the island," he said.

"The Kagman area especially is a huge village—it consists of Kagman I, II, and III. We are not even done there," said Aquino, adding that there was only one crew assigned to the village.

"We have been to Koblerville, San Jose, San Antonio. We are still going around Saipan because there are residents who call for the mayor's office to pick up green debris," she added.

According to Apatang, his office would continue its recovery efforts until a notice from the Governor's Office reaches his desk.

"This is an ongoing recovery process [and we would not stop] until we receive a letter from the governor to stop," he added.

Tinian games raise awareness of muscular dystrophy

Team Koka and VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter had a good turnout on their first weekend for "Ball for MD," a basketball event intended to raise awareness about muscular dystrophy.

This two-weekend event was organized by non-profit organizations. Last Saturday, the elementary, junior, and high school divisions competed. The last weekend in September is for the adult division.

The first weekend was dedicated to those with lymphoma and the last weekend to those with limb girdle muscular dystrophy. This event served several purposes: awareness, activities for both youth and adults and volunteerism.

The Ballers took first place in the elementary division with Daniel Alvarez named as the "most valuable player," or MVP. The junior high division first place was taken by Revolution with Preston Dela Cruz as MVP. The high school division first placer was High Flyers with Jared King as MVP. Top scorers for high school: Greg Santos with 46 total points, Eron Borja with 45 total points, and Jared King with 41 total points. Ian Pascua and Eleina Santo performed refereeing duties. ***(PR)***

The Ballers took first place in the elementary division with Daniel Alvarez named as the "most valuable player," or MVP.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The junior high division first place was taken by Revolution with Preston Dela Cruz as MVP.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The high school division first placer was High Flyers with Jared King as MVP.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USDA to replace lost food stamp benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service has approved a disaster-recovery waiver for Guam under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly referred to as "food stamps."

» Guam Residents have until Oct. 9 to replace lost food purchased through SNAP program

This waiver will allow Guam residents, eligible for SNAP benefits, to obtain additional federal benefits to replace any SNAP-purchased food lost as a result of Typhoon Mangkhut. The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued this waiver following Bordallo's request for a federal emergency declaration for Guam and the governor's subsequent request to President Trump.

Affected Guam residents eligible for SNAP should contact the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services before close of business on Oct. 9, 2018, to obtain replacement SNAP benefits typhoon recovery. DPHSS is the local GovGuam agency responsible for administering federal SNAP benefits on Guam.

"Our neediest families can now get additional SNAP benefits to replace food spoiled or damaged by Typhoon Mangkhut. This is exactly the type of federal aid needed as our island recovers. I look forward to additional assistance from the federal government to help all our families and businesses impacted by the storm," said Bordallo. ***(PR)***

Kagman High inducts school officers

A fleet of fresh officers representing the different grades of Kagman High School was inducted over the weekend.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro performed the ceremony for a total of 27 student officers last Friday at their swearing-in ceremony

The new officers are De Faustina Camacho as president, Genzo Gonzales as vice president, Kyle San Nicolas as secretary, Dionne Torres as treasurer, and Alanna Romolor as historian.

Twelfth grade students and below were also inducted. Camacho also serves as president for 12th grade students, Goddhy Taitingfong as vice president, Britney Takai as secretary, Camille Muña as treasurer, Raymond Santos as parliamentarian, and Romolor also as historian for the 12th grade representation.

Eleventh graders are represented by president Thomas Benavente, vice president Lewis Camacho, secretary Chloe Omengkar, treasurer Joan Weita, historian Selina Taitano, and parliamentarian Robin Sablan.

Tenth grade representation consist of president Sean Rabauliman, vice president Seiji Gonzales, secretary Kiana Camacho, treasurer Eugenie Repeki, and parliamentarian Jolena Quitano, while 9th grade representation consisted of president Darren Pangelinan, vice president Kayla San Nicolas, secretary Princes Pasion, and treasurer Erin Kim. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Jonathan Aguon is named e-Teacher of the Year

Jonathan Aguon is joined by PSS Instructional Technology Program officials and staff after being presented with the E-Teacher of the Year award.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonathan Aguon has been chosen by the Public School System's e-teaching staff as the E-Teacher of the Year.

As part of his award, Aguon received a MacBook Air laptop and will participate in the 2019 International Society of Technology Educators Conference.

Aguon, who has been an e-teacher for seven years, has taught a range of Language Arts courses, including British Literature, World Literature, and Advanced Placement Language & Composition. He has served as a member of the professional learning community of instructional technology and continues to serve as a lead member of the PSS Instructional Technology Program's teaching staff.

Lorraine Catienza, Distance Education program manager, said: "Mr. Aguon is truly deserving of this award. He has been committed to the development of the program. He has not only been an excellent online instructor for his students throughout the years, but he has also been a teacher leader, supporting the growth and development of his colleagues."

The PSS Instructional Technology Program oversees the operation of the Student E-learning Gateway, which offers online core curricular and elective high school courses for students across the CNMI, serving both public and private high schools.

The Student e-Learning Gateway is led by Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology, and Catienza.

"Jon has been a part of our teaching team since the program's exceptions," Cruz said. "He had a direct hand creating the foundation as well as building it up. He is a wonderful critical thinker, learner, and collaborator. Instructional Technology is very fortunate to have Jon. His commitment to excellence, his passion for helping students learn, and his technology background."

Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, the associate commissioner of Student and Support Services, said: "It is truly refreshing to see professional like Mr. Aguon continue to hone his teaching craft and innovate PSS as a whole. Mr. Aguon is undoubtedly an asset to the system and to all the children we serve."

Each year, the e-teaching staff of some of the best educators in the CNMI identifies one individual among their high performing troupe to serve as the E-Teacher of the Year. This individual exemplifies outstanding service to online teaching and learning. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
&
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will jointly hold their FY 2018 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Caladium Hall - Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 25, 2018
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes:
- **A.** SRC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2018
- **B.** SILC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2018

V. Reports
- **A.** SRC Chairperson
- **B.** Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
- **C.** Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
- **D.** Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
- **E.** SILC Chairperson
- **F.** CLI Executive Director
- **G.** OVR Director

VI. Action Items
- **A.** Ratify/Approval of Supported Employment Policy Change
- **B.** Ratify/Approval of SRC FY 2019 Resource Plan
- **C.** Ratify/Approval of SILC FY 2019 Resource Plan
- **D.** SRC Election of Officers
- **E.** SILC Election of Officers

VII. Public Comments
Current or former applicants for, or recipients of, Vocational Rehabilitation Services may provide written or oral comments regarding their satisfaction with the OVR Program and any recommendations to improve services to better meet the employment needs of people with disabilities.

Employers may also provide written or oral comments regarding their satisfaction with the OVR Program and any recommendations to improve services to better meet the business needs of employers.

VIII. Miscellaneous/Announcements
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY), no later than 4:30 pm today, September 20, 2018.

/s/ FRANCES TORRES
SRC Interim Chairperson

/s/ GERNADINE CAMACHO
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-025

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EXTENSION FOR THE CNMI MEDICAID OFFICE BUILDING CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of New Extension for the CNMI Medicaid Office Building Capitol Hill**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 20, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 17, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-025"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 26, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **November 7, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 12, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on October 26, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 187

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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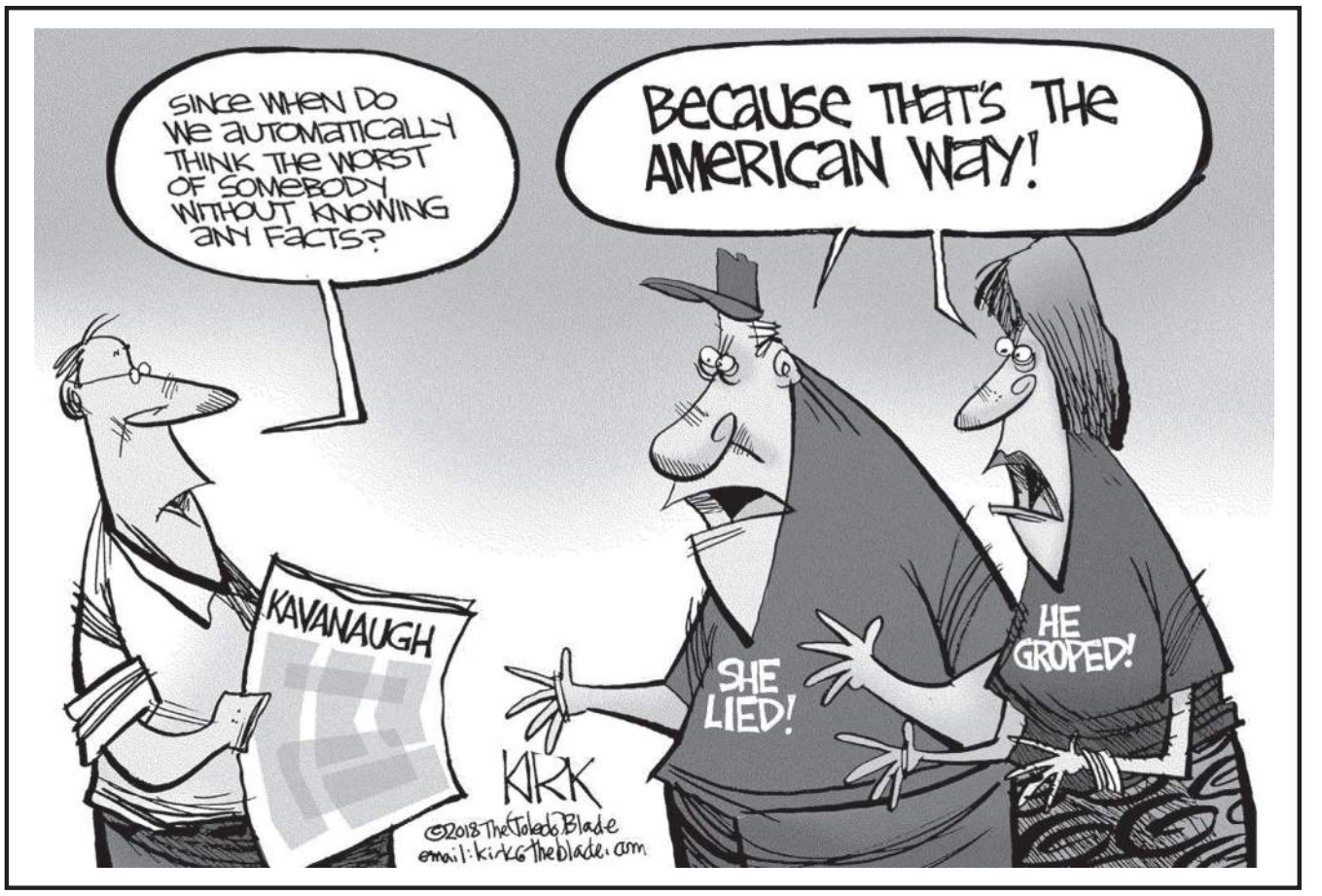
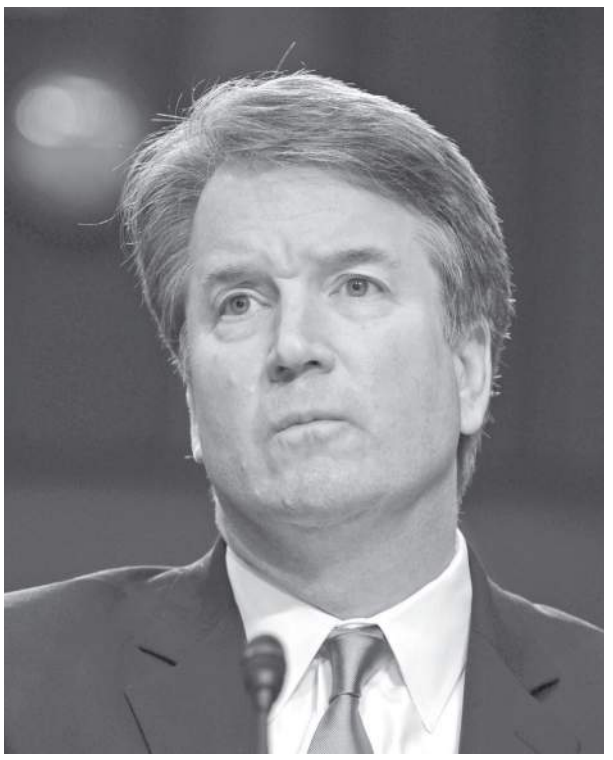


EDITORIAL

Let's listen to Christine Blasey Ford



As soon as she said she would testify, it was clear the Senate Judiciary Committee should hear from Christine Blasey Ford, the Palo Alto University psychology professor who alleges that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when the two were in high school in the 1980s. Thankfully, enough Republicans grasped this instead of attacking her, the Democrats or the outlets reporting the late-breaking story. A confirmation vote set for Thursday has now been delayed, and Ford and Kavanaugh, who denies the allegations, will both testify before the committee next Monday.

It's worth noting that it seems unlikely that Ford—knowing the way her life would be turned upside-down this month—made up this story. It's also worth noting that nothing about Kavanaugh's history suggests he would have tried to rape someone. But one of these two people is not being honest.

Given the intensity of the nomination fight—and the fact that some senators have already engaged in look-at-me theatrics—next Monday's hearing could be a circus. For the good of democracy, here's hoping the Judiciary Committee minimizes the posturing and maximizes the effort to evaluate the testimony of Ford and Kavanaugh. This may be asking too much in a polarized era in which the nomination was a partisan battle from the beginning. But a straightforward search for the truth is sorely needed.

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Feeling confident, Democrats? Things could still go wrong

By ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View *columnist. He was the executive editor of* Bloomberg News, *before which he was a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at the* Wall Street Journal.

Democrats are bullish about the November elections. They think they'll win control of the House of Representatives, score big gains in the statehouses and run competitively in contests for U.S. Senate seats. But remembering 2016 causes some of them to wake up in the middle of the night wondering what could go wrong.

The optimistic expectations come from analyzing public opinion polls, weighing the advantages of out-of-power parties in midterm elections, comparing party fundraising and weighing other historical evidence. Based on factors like these, the prognosticators at FiveThirtyEight put the Democrats' odds of winning the House at 82 percent.

Still, political due-diligence requires hard-headed analysis of potential problems that could arise in the final seven weeks before Nov. 6.

I put this to five of the most insightful Democratic strategists: pollsters Fred Yang, Jim Gerstein and John Anzalone; Mark Gersh, who for decades has been the maestro of analyzing congressional districts for House Democrats; and Paul Begala, a top party strategist since the 1992 Bill Clinton presidential run.

Yang, a partner in the Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group, is involved in some of the hottest races this year, including an unexpectedly close Tennessee Senate contest and a Kentucky House race pitting Amy McGrath, a Democratic ex-Marine combat pilot, against the Republican incumbent Andy Barr.

Yang said that a wave of support for Democrats is inevitable—"it's not whether, but how big," he declared—because "our voters are energized, theirs are not." But he said he expects President Donald Trump to try to fire up Republican voters "with some manufactured crisis," a factor that could affect the dynamics of the election.

Gerstein is the founding partner of GBA Strategies, which conducted polls in Ohio last month for Democrat Danny O'Connor before he came within a whisker of defeating the favored Republican Troy Balderson in a special election for a Republican House seat. There's a rematch on the November ballot.

Gerstein said he's anxious about the dozens of similar tossup races, almost all for Republican seats, which polls show as too close for accurate predictions. As the campaigns move into full gear, he said, Democrats will have cause for concern if they "don't start putting some of these away."

Anzalone is the Montgomery, Alabama-based president of Anzalone Liszt Research. His clients include Democrats competing in noteworthy gubernatorial races like the one in Florida featuring a Republican Trump enthusiast, Ron DeSantis, against a progressive-wing Democrat, Andrew Gillum. Anzalone frets about a "tsunami" of Republican money financing advertising blitzes and other tactics that could dominate the final weeks.

Democrats actually are matching Republicans on the money front, with an advantage in more than a few of the most competitive contests. But Anzalone fears that Republicans could reverse this advantage by tapping "a bottomless source of money" that will "come out at the end."

Gersh worries about a torrent of negative personal assaults as Republicans discover that they can't run successfully on any achievements. Attacking, he said, is a trademark of the Congressional Leadership Fund, the House Republican Super PAC run by the veteran GOP operative Corry Bliss.

Bliss last month disseminated a private federal security clearance form of Abigail Spanberger, a former anti-terrorism operative of the Central Intelligence Agency and now a Democratic House candidate in Virginia, apparently in hopes of making political use of Spanberger's employment 15 years ago at a private Islamic school financed by Saudi Arabia. In 2003, while awaiting official employment at the CIA, Spanberger worked as substitute English teacher for the Saudi Embassy Academy in Virginia, something the CIA knew about. Bliss claimed that the information came from a routine request to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, where Spanberger also briefly worked, which released it by mistake. Spanberger and Gersh don't believe that.

Begala has campaigned all over the country for Democrats this year and found that they are emphasizing health care by stressing their support for protecting the Affordable Care Act from assaults by the White House and congressional Republicans. It's been an effective strategy, Begala said, especially against the backdrop of Republican efforts to allow insurance companies to deny coverage or charge higher premiums to people with preexisting medical conditions.

So what's he worried about? Republican-friendly distractions created by left-wing Democrats who have called for abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch of the Homeland Security Department.

"I'm concerned that President Trump will try to bait Democrats into a false debate on abolishing ICE instead of a real debate on GOP efforts to abolish protections for people with preexisting conditions," Begala said.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The deadliest disease

By JOHN L. DOYLE III, MD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

One of the biggest challenges that we face as a community is apathy.

Apathy kills. When people are unaware or even uncaring about an epidemic in their midst that is ruining lives and families then the disease wins.

I know it is hard to think of addiction as a disease but it surely is.

Addiction to drugs or alcohol takes over the addict's life and becomes the sole focus of their existence.

But that is not the deadliest thing about it. The deadliest thing about it is the stigma attached to addiction that stops people from getting involved and helping someone escape from the clutches of the disease of addiction.

Addiction is based on the alteration of the physical and chemical makeup of the addict's brain and body. It is not a moral failing. It is not a weakness. It is not anything but an unfortunate, albeit known, side effect of using the drug in question. Once the brain has changed its wiring to the addicted brain, then the addict has no control over it.

Nobody sets out to become an addict. Much like a diabetic or a patient with heart disease, they thought that it wouldn't affect them. People put on weight and eat too much starch and sugar despite having diabetes themselves or in their families. People continue to smoke and eat unhealthy things even though they have heart disease or it is in their families. But these diseases do not carry a stigma.

You do not hear of someone saying that diabetics should be put in jail because they won't stay away from sugar. You do not hear of someone who wants to lock up people who have heart disease, yet these are mostly diseases of excess. What you do hear is people encouraging diabetics and heart patients to eat healthier, exercise and otherwise be healthier.

And that is as it should be.

But the stigma attached to addiction prevents people from seeking treatment. It is a disease of darkness and secretiveness that further alienates the addict from resources that can help him or her. The family of the addict is embarrassed or ashamed of them. The whole family is often in denial about the depth of the addiction and how to get away from it. And when the person finally crashes, they take the whole family with them. The first instinct is to try and protect the addict, which only enables them to slide further down. The entire family hits rock bottom at the same time the addict does. The embarrassment, the financial ruin, the death of relationships, the alienation from one's own children and the general disdain that the community has for addicts make the entire situation unbearable.

At least until the person starts to seek treatment.

Once active treatment begins and the person's humanity is restored to them then healing can and does begin.

It starts with the addict coming to terms with their illness. It is not a matter of just putting the pipe down and walking away. If it were, there would be no addicts.

As anyone who has ever quit smoking knows, the physical and emotional pain of stopping an addicting substance is quite real and quite uncomfortable.

But eventually the addiction does subside and the addict is able to competently take control of their life and live effectively and happily as long as they do not go back to the drug.

And that is what treatment is all about. It is about replacing the drug with coping skills and life skills that allow an addict to find stress relief in forms that are not self-destructive.

But then there is the stigma.

I have patients who have lost weight and their diabetes went away. I have patients that have heart disease but they stopped smoking and now exercise and are healthier than they have ever been. We compliment those folks on the changes that they made and the good decisions that they have made. We may even envy them some.

But not the addict. Everyone wants to keep an arm's length away from them at least. Everyone keeps an eye on them, waiting for them to slip up. More often than not they have a criminal record from their addiction that is going to stop them from being employable. They have often lost family and loved ones or remain alienated from them. There is no congratulations for them for having faced down an invisible killer and erasing it from their lives.

Addiction affects every individual on this island in one way or another. It affects all families and it shows no preference to social status, income, color, or sex. And when one member of our community is affected then it weakens us all.

It is time to remove the stigma of recovery from drug addiction once and for all.

Treatment does work. People do get better. People heal. And people come back stronger than ever.

Incarceration and punishment do not work. Recovery must be imposed from within and between the addict and God. Imposing it from the outside does not work. Jailing someone for an illness is not the answer.

A person who is a recovering addict has mastered a vital kind of self-discipline. They have to be morally honest with themselves about the nature of their illness and the dangers that it carries. And they have to live their life that way using all of the skills that many of us take for granted.

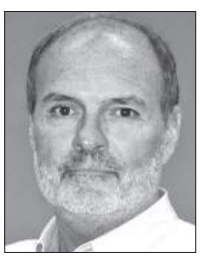
Just like the diabetic or the heart patient, the recovering addict should be supported and encouraged. When an A1C or cholesterol numbers come down I compliment my patients and treat it as a big deal because it is. These are positive steps that will allow them to live a longer and healthier life.

So it should be with people suffering from the illness of addiction. When they make the lifestyle changes and put in the work to better themselves we should celebrate their victory. And we should rid ourselves of the stigma and welcome them back to health just as you would anyone else that is recovering from an illness.

If you or a loved one is suffering from addiction call Community Guidance Center at 323-6560 and ask for help. It is confidential and is your key to freedom from addiction and freedom from the effects of another's addiction on yourself. It's your turn.

Race, conscience and empathy in the Kaepernick episode

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.*

It's instructive to consider the Colin Kaepernick episode from his point of view.

Envision yourself as a black American man who has achieved a significant level of success in a highly competitive, demanding profession. This man enjoys the fame and wealth that go along with his success. Still, his conscience nags him because he understands that his success is an unreachable anomaly for most black men.

AP

A large billboard stands on top of a Nike store showing former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick at Union Square, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018, in San Francisco.

In fact, he's troubled by the persistent de facto segregation of black Americans in our educational institutions and by high rates of incarceration for black men. And lately he's deeply disquieted by the too-frequent reports of unarmed black men killed by police.

So this wealthy, well-known black American, like the poet Robert Frost, develops a "lover's quarrel with the world." He's never fallen out of love with his nation, but its long history of injustice against his race pricks his conscience and troubles his willingness to remain silent.

At the same time, his high-profile profession requires him to attest publicly to his earnest allegiance to a nation whose loyalty to his race has often been sullied by hatred and prejudice.

So when he's required to stand for a dutiful display of his patriotism, his conscience talks back. He doesn't hate his country. He doesn't hate or disrespect the soldiers who defend it. It's just that when someone says that he must join his fellow white citizens in a public display of patriotism designed to make everyone feel good, well, he just doesn't feel that good. He'd rather sit it out, but, out of respect, he kneels instead.

None of this is very hard to imagine. In fact, it's pretty much what happened with Colin Kaepernick. What's harder to imagine is a more tolerant, less insecure America that can allow a black man to respond to his conscience without worrying that the republic will be destroyed because a few people are reluctant to participate in a rote ritual. After all, a significant portion of the white audience spends the time it takes to play the anthem in the bathroom, at the concession stand or in their recliners at home, thoroughly reclined. And still the republic stands.

This intolerance seems odd in a country where so many of us are willing to defer to the demands of conscience that a Colorado baker feels when a gay couple asks him to bake them a wedding cake.

But it's no stretch to say that Colin Kaepernick's conscience cost him his career because he failed to display his patriotism in just the way that others thought he should. President Donald Trump saw an opportunity to churn up tribalism, intolerance and support in his base by publicly savoring the pleasure it would give him to fire any S.O.B. who declines to stand and, in fact, to take away his citizenship.

It's disconcerting how quickly a mere ritual becomes a coercive test of patriotism. In fact, some of our rituals—the Pledge of Allegiance is a good example—originated at a time of significant demographic change—sort of like now—when nativists felt a need to test and shape the patriotism of newcomers. And sometimes those who failed to pass the test lost their jobs and sometimes their lives.

The great shame of the Kaepernick episode is the central role that race plays in it. Nearly all of the protestors are black. Their chief concerns are the racial injustices that persist in our country. The protestors' biggest critics are white, from Trump to the league commissioner to the owners—a white, rich, old boys' club—to the fans, who are readily riled up at the suggestion that someone might disrespect our troops.

And when we combine race with coerced conformity, it's hard not to hear the racial undertones of the past: "Know your place." "Stay in line." "Keep quiet."

And especially for you black players: "You're rich and famous. Don't get uppity."

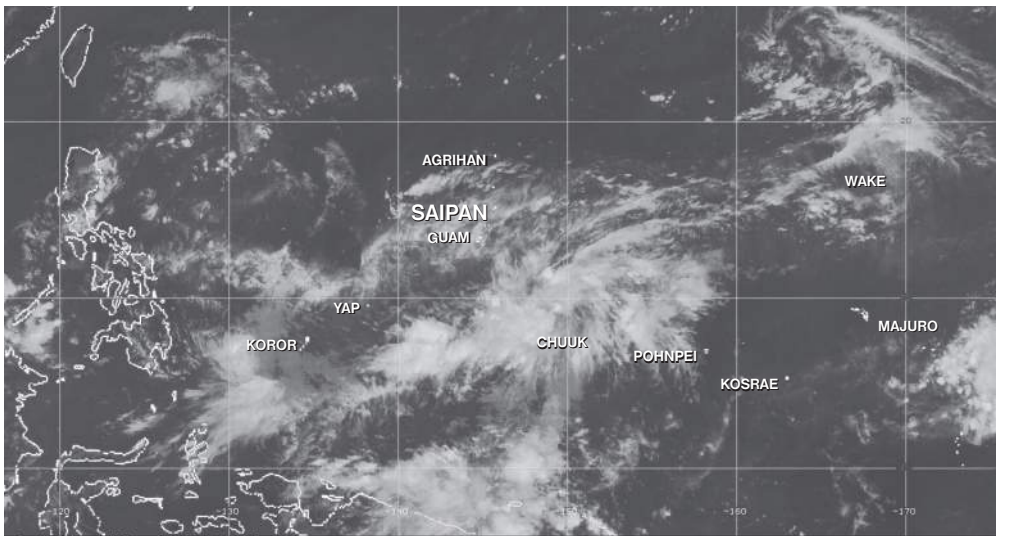
In other words, shut up and do your job until we're through with you. Above all, don't make white people uncomfortable.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:58 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance to the southeast of Guam is slowly moving toward the west-northwest. As the system approaches the Marianas, it is expected to slowly strengthen, though it is not expected to become a significant tropical cyclone until it moves west of the Marianas. A monsoon trough extends from near Mindanao through a broad circulation southeast of Yap into this disturbance. These features are expected to bring increasing cloudiness and showers to the Marianas by the weekend. Maintained the current forecast for scattered showers beginning Friday through Saturday night for now, though this coverage may be increased and extended, depending on actual development and movement of both the circulation and monsoon trough. Periods of heavy rain are possible over the weekend into early next week with these features. By the middle of next week, a drier pattern is expected to return to the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 55°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
London	Windy	70° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	83° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	90° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 65°
Osaka	Rain	82° / 75°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Busan	Rain	79° / 66°
Rome	Thunderstorms	82° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 52°
Seoul	Rain	73° / 61°
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 70°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 69°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.50
10:35 AM	LOW TIDE	0.18
5:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
11:25 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:51 AM	3:02 PM
Friday	-	2:40 AM	3:46 PM
Saturday	-	3:30 AM	4:28 PM
Sunday	-	4:19 AM	5:09 PM
Monday	-	5:08 AM	5:49 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

$4M in Compact Impact funding for NMI, other territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An additional $4 million in Compact Impact funding for fiscal year 2018 will be distributed to Hawaii, Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa to defray costs and impacts associated with migrants under the Compact of Free Association, or U.S. Public Law 108-188, to each of these affected jurisdictions.

This supplemental Compact Impact funding provided by Congress as an additional contribution to be applied towards educational impacts, was distributed as follows: Guam, $1,987,556; Hawaii, $1,701,635; CNMI, $307,914; and American Samoa, $2,893.

"Guam and Hawaii, being the first ports of entry to the U.S. from the Micronesia region, are the most impacted by those who travel to the United States under the Compacts of Free Association," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo also discussed this issue of Compact Impact with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during his recent visit to Guam. We are aware of the challenges that Guam faces and are pleased that Congress has provided this additional funding."

Under the Compact agreements (P.L. 99-239 and P.L. 99-658), citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, also known as the freely associated states, are eligible to live and work in the United States as legal non-immigrants.

Under the Amended Compact of 2003 (P.L. 108-188), Congress provided $30 million each year in mandatory funds to help defray costs associated with migrants under the Compacts to the affected jurisdictions of Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, and American Samoa.

Supplemental discretionary Compact Impact grants were first authorized and appropriated in fiscal year 2012 as an additional contribution for educational impacts.

Most of the $30 million in mandatory Compact Impact funding for fiscal year 2018 was already distributed earlier this year, with $14.9 million given to Guam; $12.8 million given to Hawaii; and $2.3 million given to the CNMI. American Samoa's portion of mandatory funding, $21,705, will now be sent to American Samoa along with their discretionary amount of $2,893 for a total Compact Impact funding support of $24,598.

» To defray impacts of Compact migrants in Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa

Guam will receive an additional amount of $176,989, which is prior-year unspent Compact Impact funds.

The mandatory funds may be used more broadly for health, educational, social, public safety services, or infrastructure related to such services due to the residence of Compact migrants in these jurisdictions.

Both discretionary and mandatory Compact Impact grant funding are distributed according to a ratio based on an enumeration conducted every five years by the U.S. Census Bureau.

According to the 2013 enumeration, there are 17,170 FAS migrants in Guam, 14,700 in Hawaii, 2,660 in the CNMI, and 25 in American Samoa.

As required by law, the enumeration is to be conducted every five years. Census is currently conducting its 2018 enumeration.

Under current law, the mandatory $30 million Compact Impact funding authorized under the Compact expires in 2023. The supplemental discretionary Compact Impact funding is dependent upon annual authorizations by Congress. ***(DOI)***

CNMI gets $75K to support parks and outdoor recreation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Ryan K. Zinke announced yesterday a $75,000 distribution from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the Northern Mariana Islands for state-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.

This is part of a $100 million distribution from the LWCF to all 50 states, the territories, and the District of Columbia. Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa will get $75,000 each; Hawaii will get $1 million; while Puerto Rico will get $1.4 million.

LWCF funds are non-taxpayer dollars derived from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues and are awarded through federal matching grants administered by the National Park Service.

"The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program leverages public and private investment in America's state and local parks and exemplifies my priorities to improve and expand outdoor recreation and access, and bolster state and local community recreation, tourism, and economic goals," said Zinke. "I support permanent reauthorization of LWCF and am hopeful that Congress will pass this important bill before the deadline."

Zinke made the announcement at Acadiana Park in Lafayette, Louisiana.

"In the last 53 years," Zinke said, "the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its state and local assistance program has provided over $4.2 billion to help states protect special places and bring outdoor recreation opportunities to local communities across the country."

The $100 million in LWCF funding distributed yesterday was supplemented by the June distribution of $61.6 million in revenues to states from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. "

Together, these funds create major positive impacts for millions of Americans who have nearby opportunities for recreation in new and improved community parks and recreation areas," Zinke said.

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1965 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations. The LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment. The funds enable state and local governments to improve park and other recreation areas in their communities by rehabilitating and upgrading existing parks, creating brand new parks in places that have none, and developing and expanding trail systems that link communities to each other and to additional outdoor recreation opportunities.

Since the inception of the LWCF, over $4.2 billion from responsible offshore oil and gas development has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 43,000 conservation projects throughout the nation. The allocation for the State and Local Assistance Program is determined by a formula set in the LWCF Act. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/lwcf. ***(DOI)***

Heavy rain seen this weekend until Monday

The weather agency forecasts heavy rainfall possible for the Marianas over the weekend into early next week.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a developing tropical disturbance and its associated monsoon trough will gradually drift west-northwestward for the Marianas over the weekend. These features will generate showery conditions with heavy downpours beginning as early as Friday evening through Monday night.

Current model output shows rainfall amounts of up to 10 inches over the Marianas by Monday evening, with substantially higher amounts just west of the coastal waters as the developing circulation slowly moves northward. If the circulation makes a slight shift to the east, it could bring rainfall amounts in excess of 20 inches to the islands.

Heavy downpours could produce flooding in urban and low-lying areas and flash flooding near rivers and streams.

Now is a good time to clear drainage areas and un-block clogged storm drains in your area to minimize the chance of flooding. Residents living near rivers and streams need to review plans for protecting properties.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point will be monitoring this developing situation and flood watches and advisories will be issued when necessary.

Keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

UOG investment club plans return to Manila conference

Students of University of Guam's Triton Investments, formerly the Student Investment Club, are preparing to make a return trip to the Pacific Region Investment Conference hosted by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies. The 18th annual conference, scheduled for Nov. 25–30 in Manila, will be the seventh the club has attended.

"Over the years the APAFS Pacific Region Investment Conference has bridged the gap between teachings and lectures in the classrooms and the dynamic applications of the financial markets/industry," said Leila Kabigting, associate professor of finance at UOG and adviser of Triton Investments.

APAFS, a Guam-based nonprofit educational and charitable association, has designed the conference to be the premier investment conference in the region, linking educational forums on the role of fiduciaries to region-specific issues. The forums offer insight and research from influential and prominent financial figures from across the Asia-Pacific region.

"It continues to be one of the primary sources of education outside of the classroom setting on current and complex global financial and economic markets and best practices," Kabigting said.

In its effort to promote key investment and fiduciary practices at the collegiate level, APAFS sponsored the club's participation at the conference in Manila last year, sending seven students and Kabigting as their adviser.

The students were presented with unique opportunities to engage and network with prominent figures from Guam, Micronesia, and the Asia region and to gain experience and knowledge in their preparation toward becoming prudent financial stewards.

"Attending APAFS was a great way to get out of the university environment while still maintaining an educational capacity to broaden what we learn from the classes and lectures provided by UOG," said Dylan Lee, a member of Triton Investments.

Josiah Lanuza, the club's vice president of activities, said, "As a freshman, going to APAFS was an eye-opening experience into the financial world, and it helped me narrow down my decisions toward my education."

The club is seeking sponsorship from APAFS again this year to fund their attendance to the November conference.

APAFS is a Guam-based 501(c)3 non-profit educational and charitable association. APAFS was founded in 2000 by a forward-thinking group of fiduciaries representing public and private institutional funds throughout the diverse geographical area of the Asia Pacific. ***(UOG)***

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam's Triton Investments club at the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies' 17th Pacific Region Investment Conference held Nov. 30 to Dec. 1 last year at the New World Makati Hotel in Makati, Philippines. The team is preparing to attend the conference again this year. Back row, from left, Josiah Lanuza, Kaysie Aguilar, Jonathan Pablo, and Dylan Lee. Front row, from left, Precious Nagallo; Leila Kabigting, associate professor of finance at UOG and adviser of Triton Investments; Shirlynnda Lebehn and Christian Delgado.

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MVA joins 2018 Mode Tour Int'l Travel Mart

To actively promote the Marianas to the travelling public in Korea, the Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the 2018 Mode Tour International Travel Mart on Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Seoul.

In collaboration with four hotel partners—Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, and Saipan World Resort—the MVA set up a pavilion-style booth featuring vivid scenery in the Marianas and a large-scaled multi LED screen to showcase videos of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

To attract more family visitors and increase awareness of the Marianas' major sports events, the pavilion also featured an event zone with Wii games.

"The stunning imagery of the Marianas and our on-hand activities were a great attraction at our booth for MTM, which welcomed over 110,700 visitors over four days," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "At MTM and other travel shows we attend, the goal is to make people aware of our destination and get them to make the decision to visit or do business with the industry. During the expo, we sold over 800 tour products for the Marianas at the site and via collaborative online sales."

Earlier this year, MVA Korea also participated in another large consumer travel fair, Hana Tour International Travel Show, held on June 7-10 at Ilsan KINTEX in Seoul. Over 80,000 people attended the show, which highlighted underwater images to promote the Marianas as a desirable destination for divers. The MVA was joined in its promotions by Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kensington Hotel, Laolao Bay Resort & Golf, Saipan World Resort, and Imperial Pacific Hotel. Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera also interacted with the public at the event. ***(MVA)***

The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the 2018 Mode Tour International Travel Mart held on Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2018, in Seoul, Korea. MVA

Pohnpei community groups get advocacy grants

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Five Pohnpei community organizations have received the news that their applications to the Pacific People Advancing Change Small Grants Facility Fund have been approved for funding.

Staff from the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team met with each of the organizations last Sept. 10-14 to deliver the news and sign their grant agreements with the Pacific Community, formerly known as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The five organizations that have received grants are Care Micronesia, Enimwahn Development Association, Micronesian Productions, Youth4Change and the Pohnpei Senior Citizens Association.

Representatives of each of the organizations were present at a one-day workshop in Pohnpei on Sept. 14 where they collectively celebrated the good news and undertook further planning to kick-start their respective advocacy campaigns within the next three months.

Stuard Penias, president of the Enimwahn Development Association, said, "Through this grant our community will be informed about human rights, domestic violence and good governance to ensure that all men and women advance gender equality in order for us to have a productive community."

Sylvia Elias, executive director of Youth4Change, acknowledged that the grant will enable their organization to "mobilize and inform young people about the impact of corruption on the country's development, so that young people can advocate for anti-corruption."

RRRT has funding from the government of Sweden to implement PPAC, focused on building the capacity of civil societies to advocate for human rights advances, as well as increasing awareness and changing attitudes within communities around human rights and gender equality. Under the first phase of the project, RRRT facilitated workshops in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to build the capacity of civil society organizations in human rights advocacy.

In the second phase, civil society organizations in these five countries were invited to apply for a small grant to implement human rights advocacy campaigns. Announcements about successful recipients from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu will be made over the coming months. Recipients of the grants will receive mentoring from RRRT over a 12-month period.

RRRT has operated for over 20 years as the region's pioneer in human rights and gender capacity building to Pacific Island countries, institutions and civil society. RRRT provides a comprehensive suite of policy and legislative advice, technical assistance and capacity building to support PICs in responding effectively to priority areas of human rights, such as gender equality, ending violence against women and children, disability rights, climate change, and equitable, sustainable development. ***(SPC)***

GCA students win 9 first place awards at Sept. PGFC contest

Grace Christian Academy students did well at the September edition of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition.

K-2 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation A
Anne Gabrielle Arriola, 1st Place
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 2nd Place
En Mei Victoria Huang, 4th Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Mirielle Isla Badal, 2nd Place
Breanna May Lopez, 4th Place
David Blaze Sablan, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation A
Aaleyah Melisa Fatialofa, 1st Place
Sayuri Yukino, 1st Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Anne Gabrielle Arriola, 1st Place
Mariska Badal, 2nd Place
Mirielle Isla Badal, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1st Place
En Mei Victoria Huang, 2nd Place
David Blaze Sablan, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters C
Breanna May Lopez, 1st Place

3-5 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation A
Arielle Mae Matutino, 1st Place
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 2nd Place
Misako Ota, 3rd Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Akira Ito, 2nd Place

Readers Forum B
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 1st Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 2nd Place
Lucas Zeyu Yuan, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Rafael Busby, 1st Place
Rooney Sumin Gil, 2nd Place
Janus Roman Calayo, 3rd Place
Nestor Ablog, 4th Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 5th Place

Choral Speaking
Rooney Sumin Gil, 3rd Place
Jungwon Alvin Han, 3rd Place
Seungwon Ashley Han, 3rd Place
Min Su Andy Kim, 3rd Place
Misako Ota, 3rd Place

Grace Christian Academy's Primary Grade Forensic Competition winners and participants have their picture taken inside the Rev. Raymond Kinsella Library. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Villagomez joins MVA board

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Warren Villagomez is officially a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors after being sworn in by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Monday on Capital Hill.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the board is excited to work with Villagomez as he would bring to the table new ideas, most especially with his background in the medical field.

Villagomez, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program/Hospital and Public Health Preparedness Program director, was nominated by Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas to be the island's representative on the MVA board.

"We're very excited and we haven't had a board member representing Tinian in over a year. We have a lot of projects lined up for the island of Tinian as part of [MVA's] destination enhancement," said Concepcion. "We're excited to get his perspective for Tinian. Of course, he has a different background—the healthcare industry where he works today. We're excited to have that kind of perspective in the industry."

He added that health safety is also a concern. "When tourists choose places to go and visit, the safety and health standards of their destination are always considered. So we're happy to have him on board in that sense."

Villagomez said he's excited to join the board and share ideas. "I'm looking forward to attend my first [board] meeting and working with my colleagues in carrying forward MVA's goals and objectives, especially for the CNMI, but more on being the Tinian representative."

He aims to come up with new ways to ramp up the island of Tinian as a tourist destination, "to come up with new ideas on how we can be more successful in attracting tourists to Tinian."

Business

AMID TARIFF BATTLE

China's premier appeals for free trade

BEIJING (AP)—China's No. 2 leader appealed Wednesday for support for free trade and promised to improve conditions for foreign companies following tit-for-tat U.S. and Chinese tariff hikes in an escalating battle over Beijing's technology policy.

Premier Li Keqiang's comments add to Beijing's effort to portray itself as a defender of global trade and multilateralism in the face of complaints by Washington and other trading partners about industry policies they say violate its market-opening commitments.

Speaking at a business conference, Li made no direct mention of the dispute but appealed to governments to resolve disputes through negotiation and reject unilateralism.

"It is essential that we uphold the basic principles of multilateralism and free trade," the premier said in a speech at the World Economic Forum in the eastern city of Tianjin.

Disputes "need to be worked out through consultation," Li said. "No unilateralism will offer a viable solution."

China announced a tariff hike on $60 billion of American imports on Tuesday in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's increase on $200 billion of Chinese goods.

The Finance Ministry said its tariff increases are aimed at curbing "trade friction" and the "unilateralism and protectionism of the United States."

There was no word on whether China would back out of trade talks it said it was invited to by the U.S., but a Chinese Commerce Ministry statement said the U.S. increase "brings new uncertainty to the consultations."

The two countries have already imposed import taxes on $50 billion worth of each other's goods. President Donald Trump threatened to add an additional $267 billion in Chinese imports to the target list if China retaliated for the latest U.S. taxes. That would raise the total affected by U.S. penalties to $517 billion, covering nearly everything China sells to the United States.

Li indirectly acknowledged complaints about global trade regulation and affirmed Chinese support for reforms.

U.S. officials have criticized the World Trade Organizaton, the global trade regulator, as antiquated and unable to deal with Chinese-style industrial policies. Beijing agreed this year to join an initiative with the European Union to propose possible reforms.

"We believe we need to uphold the basic international rules and at the same time make improvements to those that need to keep pace with the times," Li said.

Li promised Beijing will refrain from weakening its currency to stimulate exports. China's tightly controlled yuan fell in value against the dollar this year, prompting suggestions Beijing was intentionally depressing its exchange rate, but the central bank has intervened in recent weeks to put a floor under the declined.

"China will never go down the path of stimulating exports by devaluing its currency," Li said. "China will create conditions for keeping the value of the yuan stable."

The premier also promised to "improve the business environment" for foreign companies. He affirmed promises to treat companies equally — a condition to which China committed when it joined the WTO in 2001 but that foreign business groups and governments say it regularly violates.

Florence's flooding claims 3.4M poultry, 5.5K hogs

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 3.4 million chickens and turkeys and 5,500 hogs have been killed in flooding from Florence as rising North Carolina rivers swamped dozens of farm buildings where the animals were being raised for market, according to state officials.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture issued the livestock mortality totals Tuesday, as major flooding is continuing after the slow-moving storm's drenching rains. Sixteen North Carolina rivers were at major flood stage Tuesday, with an additional three forecasted to peak by Thursday.

The Department of Environmental Quality said the earthen dam at one hog lagoon in Duplin County had breached, spilling its contents. Another 25 of the pits containing animal feces and urine have either suffered structural damage, had wastewater levels go over their tops from heavy rains or had been swamped by floodwaters. Large mounds of manure are also typically stored at poultry farms.

North Carolina is among the top states in the nation in producing pork and poultry, with about 9 million hogs at any given time and 819 million chickens and 34 million turkeys raised each year.

The N.C. Pork Council, an industry trade group, said the livestock losses from the storm should be taken in the context.

"Our farmers took extraordinary measures in advance of this storm, including moving thousands of animals out of harm's way as the hurricane approached," the group said in a statement issued Tuesday. "We believe deeply in our commitment to provide care for our animals amid these incredibly challenging circumstances."

The industry lost about 2,800 hogs during flooding from Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Sanderson Farms, a major poultry producer in the state, said it lost about 1.7 million chickens after flooding at more than 60 of the independent farms that supply its poultry processing plants. The company said its facilities suffered no major damage, but supply disruptions and flooded roadways had caused shutdowns at some plants.

In addition, about 30 farms near Lumberton have been isolated by flood waters, hampering the delivery of feed to animals. The lack of food could cause additional birds to die if access isn't restored quickly, the company said.

Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer, said its plants also suffered no significant damage and are operating at limited capacity. The company said it would ramp up production as roads become passable.

An environmental threat is also posed by human waste as low-lying municipal sewage plants flood. On Sunday, the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority reported that more than 5 million gallons of partially treated sewage had spilled into the Cape Fear River after power failed at its treatment plant.

The Environmental Protection Agency said Monday that 16 community water treatment facilities in North Carolina are unable to supply drinking water and that seven publicly owned sewage treatment works are non-operational due to the flooding.

Duke Energy is continuing cleanup operations Tuesday following a weekend breach at a coal ash landfill at its L.V. Sutton Power Station near Wilmington.

Nation

N. Carolina gov pleads with storm evacuees to be patient

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—With Wilmington still mostly an island surrounded by Hurricane Florence's floodwaters and people waiting for hours for handouts of necessities like food, North Carolina's governor is pleading with thousands of evacuees to be patient and not return home just yet.

AP

A car sits in a flooded parking lot at an apartment complex near the Cape Fear River as it continues to rise in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence in Fayetteville, N.C., Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018.

"I know it was hard to leave home, and it is even harder to wait and wonder whether you even have a home to go back to," Gov. Roy Cooper said as officials began distributing supplies to residents of Wilmington, population 120,000.

The death toll rose to at least 37 in three states Tuesday, with 27 fatalities in North Carolina, as Florence's remnants went in two directions: Water flowed downstream toward the Carolina coast, and storms raced through the Northeast, where flash floods hit New Hampshire and New York state .

Cooper warned that the flooding set off by as much as 3 feet (1 meter) of rain from Florence is far from over and will get worse in places.

"I know for many people this feels like a nightmare that just won't end," he said.

Addressing roughly 10,000 people who remain in shelters and "countless more" staying elsewhere, Cooper urged residents to stay put for now, particularly those from the hardest-hit coastal counties that include Wilmington, near where Florence blew ashore on Friday. A second shelter is opening in Carteret County.

Roads remain treacherous, he said, and some are still being closed for the first time as rivers swelled by torrential rains inland drain toward the Atlantic.

In South Carolina, two women died after a van was overtaken by rising flood waters near the Little Pee Dee River. Marion County Coroner Jerry Richardson told The Associated Press that the women, detainees being transported to a mental health facility, drowned at around 6 p.m. Tuesday when a van tried to cross a roadway and was overtaken by water. Their names have not been released. Two other people were sent to a hospital for observation.

The White House said President Donald Trump will visit North Carolina on Wednesday to see the damage. Beforehand he boasted on Twitter: "Right now, everybody is saying what a great job we are doing with Hurricane Florence — and they are 100% correct." He warned that the Democrats will soon start criticizing the government response, and "this will be a total lie, but that's what they do, and everybody knows it!"

In Wilmington, workers began handing out supplies using a system resembling a giant fast-food drive-thru: Drivers pulled up to a line of pallets, placed an order and left without having to get out. A woman blew a whistle each time drivers had to pull forward.

Todd Tremain needed tarps to cover up spots where Florence's winds ripped shingles off his roof. Others got a case of bottled water or military MREs, or field rations. An olive-drab military forklift moved around huge pallets loaded with supplies.

Brandon Echavarrieta struggled to stay composed as he described life post-Florence: no power for days, rotted meat in the freezer, no water or food and just one bath in a week.

"It's been pretty bad," said Echavarrieta, 34, his voice breaking.

Nearby, about 200 people lined up to buy 40-pound (18-kilogram) bags of ice as quickly as a Rose Ice and Coal Co. could produce it.

Supplies have been brought into the city by big military trucks and helicopters, which also were used to pluck hundreds of desperate people from homes and other structures.

Mayor Bill Saffo said two routes were now open into Wilmington, which had been completely cut off by floodwaters, but those roads could close again as water swells the Cape Fear River on the city's west side.

At Fayetteville, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) inland, near the Army's sprawling Fort Bragg, the Cape Fear River had risen about 50 feet (15 meters) toward a crest predicted to be more than 25 feet (7 meters) above flood level. On Tuesday, logs and other debris became trapped under a rail bridge as rushing brown water pushed against the span.

The flooding got so bad that authorities closed a vehicle bridge in Fayetteville after the river began touching girders supporting the bridge's top deck. Fayetteville Mayor Mitch Colvin said it was unclear if the bridge was threatened. "We've never had it at those levels before so we don't really know what the impact will be just yet," he said.

The river swallowed trees, lamp posts and a parking lot near its banks. City officials warned still-rising water threatened some neighborhoods and businesses that seemed safe, but said the worst was nearly over and life was beginning to return to normal downtown. Businesses were re-opening and owners removed sandbags and plywood from storefronts.

Human and animal waste is mixing with the swirling floodwaters, which have killed about 1.7 million chickens on poultry farms. More than 5 million gallons (18 million liters) of partially treated sewage spilled into the Cape Fear River after power went out at a treatment plant, officials said, and the earthen dam of a pond holding hog waste was breached, spilling its contents.

Asia

Kim agrees to dismantle main nuke site if US takes steps too

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to permanently dismantle his main nuclear complex at Nyongbyon if the United States takes corresponding measures, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday after the two leaders held summit talks in Pyongyang to try to sustain nuclear diplomacy with Washington, which has been pushing hard for stronger disarmament moves from the North.

The Korean leaders also said the North would dismantle a missile engine test site and launch pad in the presence of outside inspectors, and would seek to host the 2032 Summer Olympics together. Moon also said Kim would try to visit Seoul sometime this year.

Washington wants North Korea to outline the entirety of its nuclear program, and its response to Wednesday's joint statement from the Koreas remains to be seen. While the declaration appears to fall short of what Washington wants, President Donald Trump has maintained that he and Kim have a solid relationship and both leaders have expressed interest in meeting again after their June summit in Singapore. North Korea has been demanding a declaration formally ending the Korean War, which was stopped in 1953 by a ceasefire, but neither leader mentioned it as they read the joint statement.

Kim

"We have agreed to make the Korean Peninsula a land of peace that is free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat," Kim said as he stood by Moon's side at the guesthouse where Moon is staying. "The road to our future will not always be smooth and we may face challenges and trials we can't anticipate. But we aren't afraid of headwinds because our strength will grow as we overcome each trial based on the strength of our nation."

Kim and Moon earlier smiled and chatting as they walked down a hallway and into a meeting room to finalize the joint statement, which also said that the leaders would push for a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons and to "eliminate all the danger of war." North Korea was expected to hold a huge mass games spectacle later in the day, with Moon attending an event expected to draw about 150,000 spectators, Seoul said. It wasn't clear if Kim would attend.

North Korea first staged its mass games in 2002, when Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, was leader. They continued most every year until 2014, then were revived during North Korea's celebrations of the 70th anniversary of its state founding earlier this month.

Kim gave the South Korean president an exceedingly warm welcome on Tuesday, the first day of the summit, meeting him and his wife at Pyongyang's airport—itself a very unusual gesture—then riding into town with Moon in an open limousine through streets lined with crowds of North Koreans, who cheered and waved the flag of their country and a blue-and-white flag that symbolizes Korean unity.

The made-for-television welcome has become routine for their summits, after two meetings earlier this year.

PH policeman: Villagers refused advice to flee storm

ITOGON, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine police officer who tried to persuade residents of a mining camp to move to safety as a powerful typhoon approached said Tuesday they refused to leave, and a day later the storm triggered a huge landslide that buried dozens of people.

Police Senior Inspector Heherson Zambale said in an interview with The Associated Press that he was stunned after learning that the massive landslide had covered a chapel and bunkhouses in the mountain village where he and other officials had met with some of the victims a day before the tragedy struck on Saturday.

Typhoon Mangkhut, the most powerful storm to hit the Philippines this year, left at least 74 people dead and dozens of others missing, mostly in the avalanche in the gold-mining town of Itogon in Benguet province. The storm later blew on to Hong Kong and southern China, where it caused more deaths and damage.

Zambale said he and other local officials tried to convince the villagers, mostly small-scale miners and their families, to move to a safer evacuation center as the typhoon approached.

A villager officer who accompanied Zambale used a megaphone to warn people that Mangkhut was extraordinarily powerful and everybody should leave, he said.

The villagers told the policemen that they thought the chapel and nearby bunkhouses were on stable ground, and that they would only move away if the storm became severe, he said.

Zambale said he saw about 15 villagers outside the chapel and bunkhouses. "Some were smiling and there were some who were just quiet. Some were listening to us," he said.

Police photographs obtained by the AP showed the officers in hard hats and light green raincoats talking with the villagers outside of what appears to be the concrete chapel and nearby bunkhouse, with piles of sandbags nearby. Part of the mountain slope, covered in green foliage, can be seen behind the buildings.

Zambale, who has battled insurgents and criminals for eight years, said he had a bad feeling about the clearing where the buildings stood near a river, surrounded by tall mountains.

Some villagers heeded the warnings and left before the typhoon struck.

"But many were left behind," Zambale said.

Rescuers have recovered 14 bodies from the avalanche and at least 58 other people remain missing, he said. Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan said Monday it was unlikely any of the missing are still alive, although rescuers continued to search.

Regional police commander Rolando Nana said a special police unit scanned the landslide-hit area with radar that can detect heart beats, but found no sign of life.

As more than 300 rescuers, including police and soldiers, used shovels and picks to search for the missing, Zambale said he still remembers the faces of the villagers he tried to convince to flee.

"I really feel sad, I cannot describe the emotion," he said. "It's not only the people who don't listen. They have children, wives, elderly parents who will all suffer."

World

Russia's Putin seeks to defuse the downing of plane off Syria

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by Syrian forces responding to an Israeli airstrike, killing all 15 people aboard, in what President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday was "a chain of tragic accidental circumstances."

The downing of the Il-20 highlighted the dangers posed by the conflicting interests of various powers in the crowded skies over Syria and threatened the close security ties between Russia and Israel.

AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to the media during a joint news conference with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban after their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018.

In an effort to maintain that relationship, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly called Putin to express sorrow over the death of the plane's crew, blamed the plane's loss squarely on Syria and offered to send Israel's air force chief to Moscow to share information about the incident.

The Russian military said the plane was hit 35 kilometers (22 miles) offshore late Monday night as it was returning to the Russian air base in Syria.

The incident triggered testy exchanges of blame between Israel and Russia.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets were targeting a Syrian military facility involved in providing weapons for Iran's proxy Hezbollah militia, noting that it warned Russia of the coming raid in line with de-confliction agreements. It said the Syrian army launched the missiles that hit the plane when the Israeli jets were already inside Israeli airspace.

But the Russian Defense Ministry said the Israeli warning came less than a minute before the strike, leaving the Russian aircraft in the line of fire. It pointedly accused the Israeli military of deliberately using the Russian plane as a cover to dodge the Syrian defenses and threatened to retaliate.

"The Israeli pilots were using the Russian aircraft as a shield and pushed it into the line of fire of the Syrian air defense," said Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu called his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, to declare that "the Israeli side bears full responsibility" for the plane's downing and to warn that Russia "reserves the right to retaliate."

But Putin took a more cautious tone, describing the incident as "a chain of tragic accidental circumstances." At the same time, he said Russia will respond by "taking additional steps to protect our servicemen and assets in Syria."

"It will be the steps that everyone will notice," he said without elaboration.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope: Sex is a gift from God, not taboo, between couples

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has told French young people that sex is a "great" gift from God, not a taboo, and should be lived as a lifelong, passionate love between man and woman. Francis urged the group of young Catholics from the Grenoble diocese to protect their sexuality from pornography and other temptations that separate sex from love. He acknowledged people "fall" and commit sin—but said "this isn't the sexuality of love." He said: "Sex is a gift of God. Not a taboo" and has two aims: to show love, and create life. Church teaching forbids premarital sex, and reserves intercourse for husband and wife. The church also opposes artificial birth control.

1 dead, 11 injured in scaffolding collapse at Madrid hotel

MADRID (AP)—Scaffolding at a luxury hotel undergoing renovation in central Madrid collapsed on Tuesday, killing one construction worker and injuring at least 11 others, an official said. Wrought iron work on the sixth floor of the centrally located Ritz Hotel collapsed shortly after 4 p.m. (1400 GMT; 10 a.m. EDT), dragging the internal scaffolding down five stories along with the workers, according to the official from the emergency services. Most of the workers emerged on their own and were treated for injuries ranging from minor to moderate, with two of them hospitalized in critical condition. Firefighters rescued three people from the rubble with moderate injuries and were working to recover the body of the worker that was killed.

Venezuela's Maduro may skip UN meeting over security fears

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Tuesday he may have to suspend a planned trip to the United Nations next week because of concerns his opponents would try to kill him if he travels abroad. Maduro said he had hoped to attend to the U.N. General Assembly in New York, which he hasn't since 2015, to combat what he called a hate campaign directed against his socialist government from the U.S. But he said opponents backed by the U.S. continue to look for ways to remove him and that security concerns would be paramount in his decision. "I'm still evaluating whether to go to the U.N. General Assembly because you know they're looking to kill me," Maduro said.

Environment

AP

From left, Roiya Lohrmann, Marcus Lohrmann and Samantha Witmer explore the beach where the effects of red tide are seen. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of fish lie dead on the beach at Pass-a-Grille in St. Petersburg, Fla. on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

Red Tide endangers more than sea life. Birds are latest victims

By CRAIG PITTMAN
TAMPA BAY TIMES

TAMPA, Fla.—One recent morning, Elizabeth Forys saw a strange sight on St. Pete Beach.

The Eckerd College biology professor was visiting to check on the condition of certain seabirds as a Red Tide algae bloom rolled into Pinellas County's iconic beaches. She saw a laughing gull just sitting on the sand, and she walked up to it. Instead of flying away, it didn't move, not even when someone came to pick it up.

As with other birds she'd seen staggering around as if they had vertigo, she suspects the gull was poisoned by Red Tide.

Amid all the talk of the wildlife killed by Red Tide this year — eels, snook, dolphins, manatees and sea turtles — seabirds and shore birds are frequently left out.

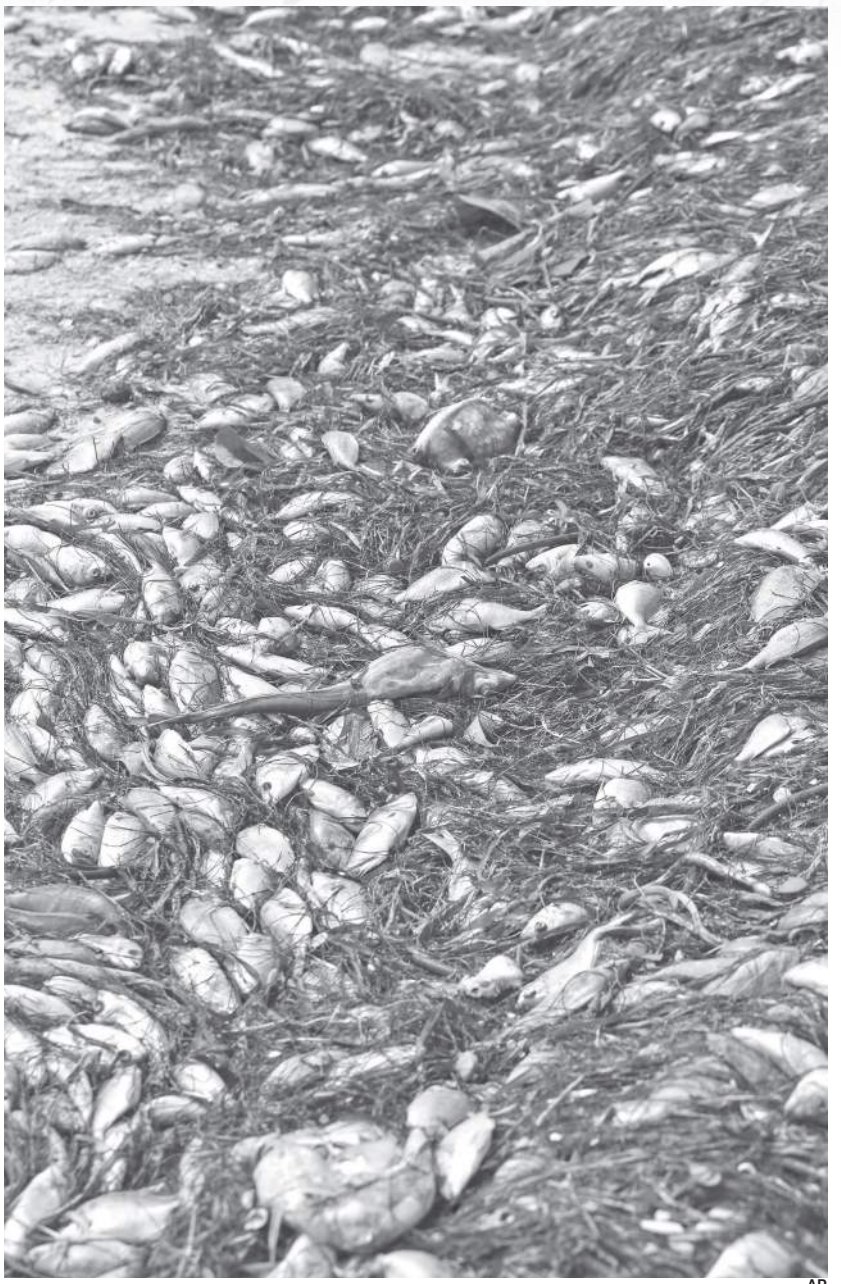
But they're suffering as well, to the point that wildlife rehabilitation experts are on the lookout for ailing birds. They are particularly searching for the ones that are supposed to be protected by state and federal law, such as black skimmers, least terns, snowy plovers, oystercatchers and red knots.

"We're really worried about the red knots," said Lorraine Margeson, an avid birder who monitors nesting behavior at For DeSoto. She noted that this time of year, more than a thousand often wind up on the beaches between St. Pete Beach and Sand Key.

The birds that get sick appear to fall ill after eating the dead fish killed by Red Tide. The algae's toxins collect in their avian bodies and affect their neurological and digestive systems.

Sometimes the poison is fatal. Forys said four snowy plovers died on Lido Key near Sarasota, all apparently killed by Red Tide. She said that's an unheard of number of simultaneous deaths for that species, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The hardest hit area appeared to be Sarasota. There, a wildlife rehabilitation facility called Save Our Seabirds took in 45 sick birds in a single morning, said Melissa Dollard, avian hospital director for the Seashore Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores. Dollard said she's hoping her facility doesn't get that many Red Tide patients in such a short space of time.



AP

The effects of red tide are seen at Pass-a-Grille Beach in St. Petersburg, Fla. on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, where hundreds, perhaps thousands of fish lie dead on the beach.

"We've gotten about 20 birds so far that are presenting with Red Tide symptoms," Dollard said.

The ones most commonly affected are the laughing gulls, she said, but the sanctuary has also cared for a pair of cormorants, a ruddy turnstone and a few pelicans, among other species.

Treating them involves giving them food that's not tainted by Red Tide, providing fluids to flush out the toxins and sometimes treating them with activated charcoal, which helps purge the Red Tide, Dollard said. Usually they're fine after seven to 10 days of treatment, she said.

The sick ones are easy to spot, said Holley Short, project manager for bird stewardship for Audubon's Tampa Bay chapter.

"They can't support themselves," she said. "They're not behaving the way birds on a beach normally would. They're not able to control their movements."

A black skimmer that was hatched on Marco Island earlier this year failed to grow normally, said Marianne Korosy, director of bird conservation for Audubon of Florida. At last the bird became too sick to stand up, and eventually it died.

State wildlife officials ordered a necropsy, which is the animal version of an autopsy. The cause of death turned out to be a parasite, Korosy said, but "its tissues were loaded" with Red Tide toxins. She said the suspicion is that Red Tide's toxins weakened the bird's immune system, allowing the parasite to run amok.

The good news, Margeson said, is that all the wildlife rehabilitation workers and avid birders are working together to search the beaches and find victims before it's too late. Most can be treated for their poisoning if they get care in time.

Here's one more piece of good news about the Red Tide impact on seabirds:

When Forys went to St. Pete Beach, she was searching for any black skimmers that might have been sickened by Red Tide. The skimmers are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty and are classified as threatened by Florida's wildlife agency. She was relieved she didn't find any.

"Fortunately," she said, "their nesting season was over."

Life & Style

Michael Jordan donates $2M for hurricane relief in NC

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan grew up playing high school basketball in Wilmington, North Carolina. So when the former NBA star watched the destruction caused by Hurricane Florence to his hometown and surrounding area, he acted quickly to help.

The six-time NBA champion and Charlotte Hornets owner donated $2 million on Tuesday to assist residents of the Carolinas—$1 million each to the American Red Cross and the Foundation For The Carolinas' Hurricane Florence Response Fund.

"It just hits home," Jordan told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I know all of those places: Wilmington, Fayetteville, Myrtle Beach, New Bern, and Wallace, which is where my father is from. So quite naturally it hits home, and I felt like I had to act in a sense that this is my home."

The 55-year-old Jordan said he still has an aunt, cousins and several buddies who live in coastal North Carolina. He also has a nephew who attends UNC Wilmington, which has remains closed while recovering from the damage.

"It makes you think about the path that you have taken, and where your life has taken you. And I just feel like, well, maybe if I can help in some sort of way all of the people, and all of the places, that have helped me along the road." --Michael Jordan

He watched television with extra concern last week when the hurricane pounded the area, causing 34 known deaths—including 26 in North Carolina—and leaving behind damaged homes, power outages and extensive flooding.

Jordan spent the days after trying to get in touch with family and friends to make sure they were safe. He was relieved upon learning they were uninjured.

"At the end of the day, it makes you think about the path that you have taken, and where your life has taken you," Jordan said. "And I just feel like, well, maybe if I can help in some sort of way all of the people, and all of the places, that have helped me along the road."

Jordan said it's fulfilling to have the resources to help.

"I have been one of the lucky ones to move on and build an unbelievable career," said Jordan, who played college basketball at North Carolina. "It just makes it a little more special when you can actually help out an area you know very, very well."

Jordan plans to visit the area at some point when the roads are safe to travel and check up on family and friends.

In addition to the donation, more than 100 members of the Hornets organization will help pack disaster food boxes Friday at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte, North Carolina. The disaster food boxes, which provide individual meals, will be shipped to Wilmington, Fayetteville and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and distributed to those directly impacted by the hurricane.

Reality show doc, woman charged with California drug rapes

LOS ANGELES (AP)— A California physician who appeared in a reality TV dating show and an alleged female accomplice have been charged with drugging and sexually assaulting two women, and authorities said Tuesday there could be many more victims.

Orthopedic surgeon Grant W. Robicheaux, 38, of Newport Beach and Cerissa Laura Riley, 31, of Brea were arrested Sept. 12 after being charged with rape by use of drugs, oral copulation by anesthesia or controlled substance, and other crimes, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas told a news conference in Santa Ana.

Investigators were meticulously going through "thousands and thousands of videos and images on Robicheaux's phone, many also including Riley," Rackauckas said.

Some videos show women who "appear to be highly intoxicated beyond the ability to consent or resist, and they're barely responsive to the defendant's sexual advances. Based on this evidence, we believe that there might be many unidentified victims out there," he said.

The district attorney showed reporters video of Robicheaux from a now-canceled Bravo TV show called "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male" in an episode titled "Three's A Crowd."

"We believe the defendants used their good looks and charm to lower the inhibitions of their potential prey," Rackauckas said, releasing an array of information about many locations and events associated with Robicheaux and Riley.

The defendants, who were released on $100,000 bail, could not be immediately reached for comment.

The two women who were allegedly assaulted met the pair during social encounters.

"Women who have encountered these two might have felt a false sense of security due to the fact that both defendants are clean cut, good-looking," Rackauckas said.

"We tend to trust doctors who take an oath to do no harm. The second defendant, being a female, is key. A woman purporting to be his girlfriend clearly played a significant role in disarming the victims, making them feel comfortable and safe," he said.

According to prosecutors, Robicheaux and Riley met a 32-year-old woman at a Newport Beach restaurant on April 10, 2016, invited her to a party and then escorted her to Robicheaux's apartment when she was intoxicated.

German doctors: Pussy Riot poisoning 'highly plausible'

BERLIN (AP)—German doctors treating a member of Russian protest group Pussy Riot said Tuesday that claims he was poisoned are "highly plausible," but stressed they can't say how this might have occurred or who was responsible.

Pyotr Verzilov has been receiving intensive care since arriving in Berlin from Moscow on Saturday, but his condition isn't life threatening, Dr. Kai-Uwe Eckardt of Berlin's Charite hospital told reporters.

Verzilov's symptoms, together with information received from relatives and the Moscow hospital he was admitted to last week, "make it highly plausible that a poisoning took place," Eckardt said. He said Charite doctors have found "no evidence whatsoever that there would be another explanation for his condition."

Verzilov and other members of the Pussy Riot group served 15-day jail sentences for disrupting the World Cup final in Moscow in July to protest excessive Russian police powers.

Eckardt said Verzilov fell ill on Sept. 11 after attending a friend's court hearing in the Russian capital, and was admitted to a Moscow hospital that evening with symptoms that included disorientation and widened pupils. Russian doctors suspected possible poisoning and treated him accordingly, emptying his stomach and performing a dialysis, Eckardt said.

AP

This photo provided by the Cinema For Peace Foundation shows Pjotr Wersilow, member of the Russian Punk band 'Pussy Riot' receiving medical treatment in an ambulance as he arrives at the Schoenafeld airport in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

He said the symptoms indicate Verzilov, who arrived in Germany by private medevac Saturday, is suffering from an anticholinergic syndrome that can result from the disruption of the nervous system that regulates the inner organs.

While doctors in Berlin haven't yet determined what was responsible for the poisoning, they said it could have resulted from various substances including high doses of some pharmaceuticals and plants that contain particular toxins.

Dr. Karl Max Einhaeupl, the Charite hospital's chairman, said doctors wanted to "refrain completely from all speculation about what made these problems happen."

While he wouldn't rule out that recreational drugs were responsible for the poisoning, he said such drug use is very rare.

"We have no evidence that there is a drug problem and it would be very unusual for someone to take a drug in the dose that it was taken," he said. "That would be done with suicidal intent, but we have no indications of this."

Eckardt, who heads the Charite's intensive care department, said he expects Verzilov to make a full recovery and hopefully suffer no permanent damage.

He said Verzilov, who also has Canadian citizenship, is already communicating with doctors but so far they haven't been able to question him in detail about his medical history.

A fellow member of Pussy Riot, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, told reporters at a separate news conference in Berlin on Tuesday that Verzilov was "one of the most effective activists that Russia has ever seen."

She said Verzilov would likely return to Moscow once he recovers.

Verzilov is a dual Russian and Canadian citizen. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said Tuesday that she spoke with Verzilov's mother and assured his family he will have the Canadian government's full support because he is a Canadian citizen.

"This is something we are monitoring very closely and we will act appropriately," Freeland said.

'Show must go on:' Stranded in Europe, orchestra improvises

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Symphony Orchestra might want to consider naming its next album "Songs in the Key of A"—as in airport, abandoned and Amsterdam.

The renowned orchestra very nearly missed the last stop on its 12-concert, eight-city European tour when it got stuck in Paris en route to the Dutch capital.

Symphony spokeswoman Bernadette Horgan said the Grammy Award-winning orchestra arrived midmorning Monday at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport for a noon Luxair charter flight to Amsterdam for its final performance of the tour.

As musicians lined up to board, they were told the flight was delayed because of a mechanical problem. A short time later, they learned the aircraft needed more extensive repairs and the flight was canceled. Staff looked into other flights as well as trains and buses, "but there was no viable solution as to how to transport a group of about 145 people," Horgan said.

Complicating matters, the full orchestra was needed that evening at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw hall to perform Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 4," one of the largest works for orchestra. And the only flight available to Amsterdam—a plane in Luxembourg—could take only half of them.

"It wasn't the day we planned. But everyone hung in there," Mark Volpe, the symphony's president and CEO, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Tuesday from Paris. "At that point, it was a 'show must go on' kind of mindset."

That set the BSO's music director, Andris Nelsons, and key players on a mad scramble to revise the repertoire and find a substitution for the Shostakovich piece. They decided on Beethoven's "Symphony No. 7"—even though they hadn't performed it in more than a year.

"Tensions were high," Horgan noted drily.

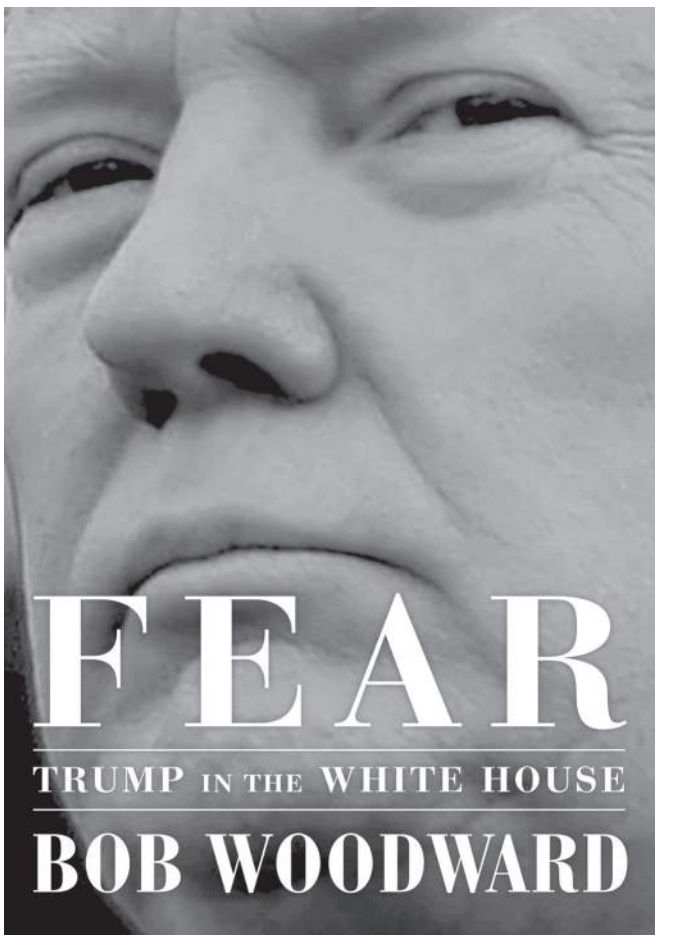
Dutch organizers delayed the concert's start from 8:15 p.m. to 9 p.m., and a group of 76 arrived with barely enough time to change into black tie and wolf down sandwiches, let alone rehearse. Fortunately, the orchestra's $38 million worth of instruments had been sent ahead via climate-controlled trucks, and symphony librarians back in Boston were able to hastily retrieve, scan and email musical scores to be printed in Amsterdam.

Woodward's Fear already a million-seller

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Woodward's "Fear" is already a million-seller.

Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday that Woodward's takedown of President Donald Trump has sold more than 1.1 million copies just a week after publication. It is among the fastest selling hardcover books in memory and had the fastest opening in history for Simon & Schuster, which also publishes Stephen King, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Mary Higgins Clark.

"Fear" now joins Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury" as a million-selling portrait of a chaotic Trump administration.



This image released by Simon & Schuster shows "Fear: Trump in the White House," by Bob Woodward. AP

Music modernization bill clears another hurdle in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The way music is licensed and songwriters are compensated for the digital age will be undergoing big changes under a bill making its way through Congress.

The Senate cleared a bill late Tuesday that creates a new independent entity that will license songs to companies that play music online. The nonprofit collective will then pay songwriters, including those who wrote pre-1970s classics before music copyrights protected their work.

Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander championed the bill and sought to rename it the Orrin B. Hatch Music Modernization Act after the retiring Utah senator, who also backed it.

The measure enjoys unusually strong bipartisan support from the music industry. It now goes to the House with changes from an earlier version that already passed that chamber on a nearly unanimous vote.

US poet Danez Smith wins prestigious Forward Prize

LONDON (AP) — American performance poet Danez Smith has won the prestigious Forward Prize for the collection "Don't Call Us Dead."

At 29, the poet from St. Paul, Minnesota is the youngest-ever winner of the 10,000 pound ($13,000) award, founded in 1992.

Smith, who uses the gender-neutral pronoun "they," was praised for "jubilant and confrontational" verses reflecting their experiences as a young, HIV-positive African American.

British writer Bidisha, who chaired the judging panel, said Tuesday that Smith's poetry "makes us look anew at the intertwined natures of politics and sexuality and stands as a powerful warning: this is what's happening, be alert, pay attention."

The Forward Prize for best first collection went to Phoebe Power's "Shrines of Upper Austria." Liz Berry's "The Republic of Motherhood" was named best single poem.

CBS' Julie Chen leaves daytime's 'The Talk' in taped message

NEW YORK (AP)—Julie Chen announced Tuesday that she was leaving the cast of the CBS daytime show "The Talk" a week after her husband, CBS Corp. boss Leslie Moonves, was ousted from the company due to sexual misconduct allegations.

Chen hadn't appeared on the show during its season-opening week last week. She wasn't on the set Tuesday, either, making her announcement via a taped message from the set of "Big Brother," the prime-time CBS show that she also hosts.

She made no mention of the case involving Moonves. On one episode of "Big Brother" last week, she pointedly signed off as "Julie Chen Moonves," when she usually doesn't use her married name professionally.

"Right now, I need to spend more time at home with my husband and my son," she said.

She's been with the show since its inception nine years ago, along with co-hosts Sara Gilbert and Sharon Osbourne. Chen called the trio "The Three Musketeers" in her goodbye message, played at the end of Tuesday's episode.

AP

In this June 16, 2014 file photo, Les Moonves, right, president and CEO of CBS Corporation, and his wife Julie Chen pose together at the premiere of the CBS science fiction television series «Extant» in Los Angeles.

Chen appeared to fight back tears when thanking crew members, but quickly gathered her composure.

"I know this show and the sisterhood it stands for will continue on for many, many more years to come," she said.

She appeared to endorse "Dancing With the Stars" judge Carrie Ann Inaba as a successor. Inaba was filling in for Chen behind the show's desk on Tuesday. Chen was effectively the moderator of "The Talk," steering the show's conversation.

Record-low viewership for Emmy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Television's biggest night wasn't that big. The Emmy Awards drew a record-low audience of just over 10.2 million people, down 11 percent from the past two years.

Michael Che and Colin Jost of "Saturday Night Live" hosted the awards show on NBC Monday. Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" became the first show from a streaming service to win best comedy, while HBO's "Game of Thrones" was the top drama.

The show reached virtually identical audiences of 11.4 million each of the last two years, the Nielsen company said.

The decline to 10.21 million continues a troubling trend for televised awards shows. The Oscars audience this year was down 19 percent from 2017 and the Grammys were down 23 percent.

The further fragmentation of television undoubtedly plays a role in audience interest levels. When "Frasier" was winning awards in the 1990s, the comedy was regularly seen in nearly 20 million homes. Streamed shows like "Mrs. Maisel" are far less popular and, in fact, it's still difficult to get precise numbers about how many people watch them.

Three times in the 1990s, the audience for the Emmy Awards exceeded 20 million people.

On the bright side, it's likely to have contained the most-watched marriage proposal of the year. Emmy winner Glenn Weiss heartened audience members by proposing to his girlfriend while onstage accepting an award for directing the Oscars telecast. Jan Svendsen said yes.

Jealous girlfriend threatens brother-and-sister relationship

DEAR ABBY: My brother and his girlfriend live together. One day I heard his ex-girlfriend had passed away suddenly, so I told him because I thought he should know. Well! His girlfriend messaged me and told me to mind my own business and stay away from my brother. She's very jealous, and she lets it show. They aren't engaged or married.

What was wrong with my telling him before he read it in the news? Other people have told me I didn't do anything wrong. My boyfriend said the same thing. She has now threatened my relationship with them.

JUST LETTING HIM KNOW

DEAR JUST: There was absolutely nothing wrong with giving your brother the sad news. As your brother's sibling, if you feel there is anything he needs to know, you should say it. His girlfriend appears to be pathologically controlling. Do NOT "stay away" from him. The next time you talk with him, tell him what she said and point out that her attitude isn't healthy for any of you.

DEAR ABBY: My sister is a survivor of breast cancer. She had a single mastectomy and wears a sports bra these days. When I asked her if she was going to get a prosthetic, she told me she doesn't care.

Recently I met a survivor who was giving away her prosthetics, and she ended up giving them to me to give to my sister. I don't think my sister needs to have a prosthetic. I just thought it would be nice for the days she did decide she'd like one.

My question is, how do I tenderly give her the gift without her thinking I think she needs it? Or should I not give it to her at all?

UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR UNSURE: Not knowing your sister, I can't predict how she may react. However, the prudent way to go about it would be to mention to her that you encountered a survivor who no longer needs her prosthetic and ask if she might like to have it in her drawer. If she refuses, let it go and don't raise the subject again.

DEAR ABBY: I have provided pastoral counseling for 25 years. When an old friend mentioned that she was out of work and couldn't pay her mortgage, I emailed her a few job notices. In addition, I offered some suggestions about how she could earn some income, such as teaching private golf lessons or holding an indoor yard sale.

I also gave her phone numbers for the Land Loss Prevention Project and the phone number of a bankruptcy firm. She scoffed at my suggestion of bankruptcy protection to save her home. I am perplexed. Abby, what would make a person in need say "Bankruptcy! REALLY?" and stop speaking to me?

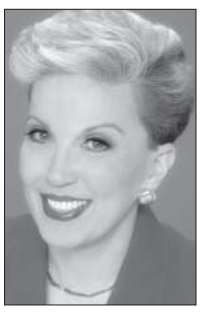
PERPLEXED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your old friend may have been put off or frightened when you used the word "bankruptcy." Or, she may have been expecting you to rescue her by offering her a loan instead of ways to help herself.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

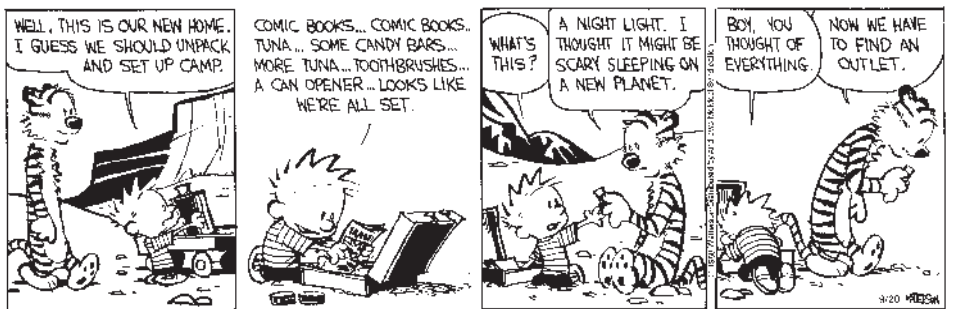


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

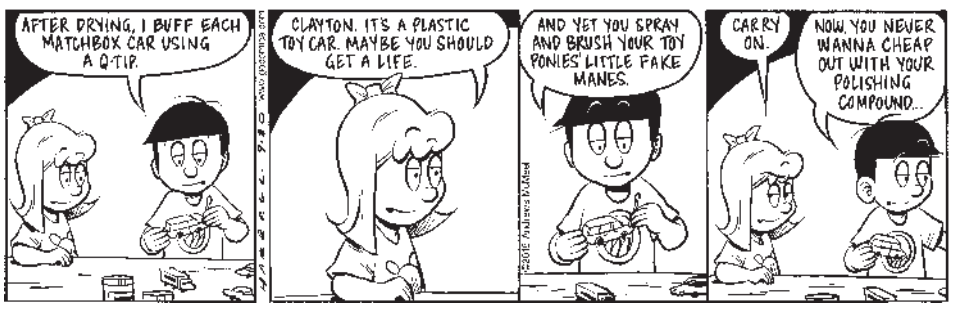

WELL, THIS IS OUR NEW HOME. I GUESS WE SHOULD UNPACK AND SET UP CAMP.
COMIC BOOKS... COMIC BOOKS.. TUNA... SOME CANDY BARS... MORE TUNA... TOOTHBRUSHES... A CAN OPENER... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL SET.
WHAT'S THIS?
A NIGHT LIGHT. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SCARY SLEEPING ON A NEW PLANET.
BOY, YOU THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
NOW WE HAVE TO FIND AN OUTLET.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


AFTER DRYING, I BUFF EACH MATCHBOX CAR USING A Q-TIP.
CLAYTON. IT'S A PLASTIC TOY CAR. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A LIFE.
AND YET YOU SPRAY AND BRUSH YOUR TOY PONIES' LITTLE FAKE MANES.
CARRY ON.
NOW YOU NEVER WANNA CHEAP OUT WITH YOUR POLISHING COMPOUND...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THOSE ARE REAL ITALIAN SHIRTS. WE JUST GOT THEM IN.
BUT THEY SAY "MADE IN INDIA."
OH NO - OUR MANAGER SAID THEY'RE ITALIAN. HE WOULD KNOW.
WHY IS THAT?
HE USED TO WORK AT THE OLIVE GARDEN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Green prefix
4 Kvetches
8 Soaks (up)
12 Atlas page
13 Furniture brand
14 Historic periods
15 Audition that anyone can attend
17 April forecast
18 Fan's cry
19 Maroons
21 Euphoric
24 Chatter
25 Ump
26 Dine
28 Energetic
32 Hose woe
34 Pooch
36 Actress Ward
37 Bar mixer
39 Uno + uno
41 — de plume
42 Guy's date
44 Groups of eight
46 Dressy shoe
50 Online address
51 Baseball's Hershiser
52 Muse of heroic poetry
56 Lighten
57 "Live —!"
58 Standard
59 Bygone jets
60 Libretto
61 UFO fliers

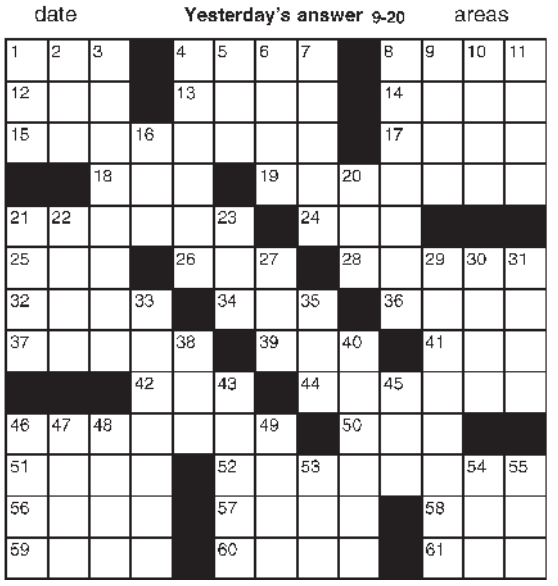
DOWN

1 Comic Philips
2 Tube top
3 Regular at The Met
4 Alcoves
5 Alias abbr.
6 Hair goops
7 Like seawater
8 Mexican wraps
9 Algerian port
10 Settled the bill
11 Taxpayer IDs
16 Rebel Turner
20 Knock
21 Formerly, once
22 Comic Jay
23 Lemon
27 Group of whales
29 Actress Cruz
30 Conspiracy
31 Orange veggies
33 Nervous laughs
35 Sticky stuff
38 Sylvester, for one
40 Carve, as a statue
43 Allowed
45 Part of TNT
46 Troubles
47 401(k) relatives
48 Hatchling's home
49 Top of the head
53 Light (Lat.)
54 Bit of butter
55 Hosp. areas

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	A	D		S	A	N	D		R	O	M	A
O	S	E		E	R	I	E		E	V	E	N
E	T	A		T	A	B	L	E	S	A	L	T
M	I	D	A	S			T	L	C			
			C	O	P	Y		D	U	S	I	S
S	A	L	I	H	R	E	E		E	A	H	L
	I	E		F	O	A	L	S		R	I	O
O	D	E	S		F	R	E	E	T	I	M	E
P	A	N	C	H		S	C	A	R			
			R	I	D			L	A	G	E	R
	I	M	C	T	A	B	L	C		U	M	A
A	S	I	A		D	O	C	P		A	M	T
M	A	A	M		A	X	I	S		M	A	E

Yesterday's answer 9-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phillip Phillips, 28; Kristen Johnston, 51; Gary Cole, 62; Sophia Loren, 84.

Happy Birthday: This is a year of change. Size up the past and live in the moment, and you will find a way to build a better future. Much can be accomplished if you are open to change and willing to start by making self-improvements. Personal gains will come with hard work and dedication to whatever you feel is best for you. Your numbers are 6, 10, 14, 26, 30, 42, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider what you can do for others, and put your time to good use. Reaching out will make a statement about the type of person you are as well as how you feel about the injustice you see all around you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a moment to organize your thoughts and plan your actions. Making a sudden move can damage your relationship with someone as well as hurt your reputation, causing an unexpected change to your status or future prospects. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what you say and don't stop until you are finished. Power comes from being precise and living up to your promises. Don't trust someone who talks big and does little. Show your emotions and act accordingly. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Participate in something you've never done, or associate with people who come from different backgrounds. Learning more about those you know little about will broaden your outlook. Romance is highlighted, but making an unrealistic choice is not. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Overspending on things you don't need will leave you short at the end of the month. Take your time and consider what's necessary and what isn't. Trying to buy love or favors will end up costing you emotionally, financially and physically. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* If you have to make a change, think it through. Practicality should play a heavy role in how you perceive whatever situation you face, as well as how you move forward. Whatever change you make, do so for the right reason. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* What you do counts. Laziness will lead to criticism. Show everyone what you are made of. Do things that make a statement about the type of person you are. Put greater emphasis on what you do, not what you say. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of plans will throw you off guard. Don't get into a petty argument with someone who is trying to get a rise out of you. Getting along with others won't be easy, but it is in your best interest. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll gain ground if you put more energy behind your plans. Don't wait for someone else to pick up the slack. Make it clear you are willing to put in the time in order to reap the rewards. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An open mind coupled with a practical attitude will help you reach your goal. Strive for perfection, but not at the cost of missing your deadline. There is a fine line between success and failure. Use your skills and attributes wisely. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look out for your interests. Refuse to let someone else tempt you with an idea or plan that isn't logical. Keep your money tucked away in a safe place and don't let anger be your downfall. Slow down and make wise choices. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An opportunity should be looked at carefully. Don't trust the system to work for you. Look over rules and regulations before you say yes to someone prompting you to take part in something you know little about. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, smart and detailed. You are perceptive and changeable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8					7	5	
	7	2		4	6			
	5		3		1			
		4	1	8				
	3		2		9			
	8	6		5	2			
7	1					9	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	5	2	3	9	4	6	1	8
3	9	8	1	6	2	4	7	5
6	4	1	5	8	7	9	3	2
5	3	4	9	7	1	2	8	6
2	7	6	8	4	5	3	9	1
8	1	9	2	3	6	7	5	4
9	2	3	4	1	8	5	6	7
1	6	5	7	2	9	8	4	3
4	8	7	6	5	3	1	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WALLPAPER DESIGNS **Solution: 5 letters**

S	S	F	F	I	T	O	M	R	E	D	R	O	B	C
T	T	L	T	A	P	E	S	T	R	Y	R	O	V	I
R	A	O	L	C	T	L	A	R	U	M	E	N	I	L
I	R	R	D	A	A	K	C	I	T	S	C	L	N	Y
P	S	A	L	A	N	R	S	M	X	H	I	A	T	R
E	D	L	O	B	K	D	T	S	E	A	R	C	A	C
D	I	L	O	S	U	L	S	S	T	D	T	I	G	A
C	U	S	T	O	M	W	O	C	B	E	E	P	E	D
L	P	L	L	L	E	N	A	P	A	A	M	O	P	O
R	E	C	L	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	O	R	L	O
I	E	T	A	U	R	O	L	O	C	R	E	T	A	W
W	L	B	S	Y	R	E	N	E	E	R	G	A	Y	L
S	R	T	L	A	R	U	R	T	S	E	R	O	F	L
U	I	M	L	A	P	S	F	A	N	C	I	F	U	L
C	O	N	C	R	E	T	E	A	N	I	M	A	L	S

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Abstract, Acrylic, Animals, Bold, Border, Clouds, Concrete, Custom, Dull, Fanciful, Floral, Forest, Geometric, Greenery, Ivory, Landscape, Line, Metallic, Motif, Mural, Palm, Panel, Pastel, Pattern, Peel, Playful, Polka Dots, Rural, Rustic, Shade, Solid, Stars, Stick, Stripe, Swirl, Tapestry, Texture, Trims, Tropical, Urban, Vintage, Watercolor, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Spirals

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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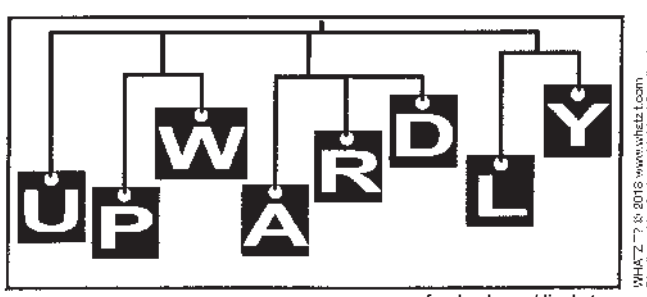
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS MP 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff -v- LUIS A. SASAMOTO Defendant : CIVIL ACTION NO. 01-0044

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgement issued by the Court in this matter on March 28, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on terms and condition set for the hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant Luis A. Sasamoto in and to the following property: Lot no. 060 T 01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 91-083, dated January 9, 1991, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 28, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions Of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 30th day of August, 2018:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Yinhua Clark Petitioner -vs- Song Feng Lin Respondent : FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0316 : **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1474 Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Maribel A. Casilla
P.O. Box 504597 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF EZEKIEL JOHN A. CASILLA An Incompetent) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0322

By ROLAND CASILLA MARIBEL CASILLA Petitioner) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Please take notice that Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Roland Casilla and Maribel Casilla, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 1st day of October, 2018, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 18-066

Opening Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
Closing Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Engineer: Electrical Engineer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. Manages engineering projects and coordinates resources from design through completion of construction; develops scope of work; develops and maintains project plan and schedules; monitors, reviews and evaluates project progress and status; ensures compliance with specifications, standards, contract, requirements and codes. Prepares engineering design calculations, analyses, drawings, technical specifications, cost estimates, contract documents, change orders, reports, correspondence and other related documents. Reviews project submittals, drawings, and schedules for approval; reviews and certifies contractor payment requests; tracks project funding and expenditures; maintains project files and records. Performs research studies and provides technical assistance; responds to inquiries and technical information requests related to projects; identifies and analyzes issues; and recommends and implements solutions. Conducts investigations and inspections; collects and maintains field data; identifies and analyzes problems with equipment, systems or operations; conducts testing and troubleshoots issues; recommends or implements modifications, solutions or enhancements. Assists with bid administration processes; participates on and provides technical support to special project teams as required. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: **Power Division : Transmission & Distribution, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $40,084.00 to $45,141.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four (4) years of general professional, electrical engineering experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Research methods; Project management principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Quality assurance principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Providing project management and resource coordination; Developing project scope and plan; Monitoring project schedules, status and compliance; Preparing plan designs, calculations, technical specifications, and other technical documentation; Performing technical review of submittals, drawings, and schedules; Monitoring project funding and expenditures; Maintaining project files and records; Performing research studies; Responding to technical inquiries and information requests; Identifying, troubleshooting and investigating issues; Recommending, developing and implementing solutions; Conducting investigations and inspections; Collecting, analyzing and maintaining field data; Administering and monitoring contract compliance; Assisting with bid administration processes; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office..

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 18-067

Opening Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
Closing Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Junior Engineer

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Division Manager or his/her designee. Designs electric and distribution and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of electric and distribution projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate electric and distribution system needs and perform engineering analysis. Performs research for design and operational efficiency improvements; provides recommendations of options to improve system operations. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: **Power Division : Transmission & Distribution, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $37,756.00 to $42,519.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and two (2) years of related experience. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD and GIS is preferred but not required. **Knowledge of:** Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and transmission and distribution concepts. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation;; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate; interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

76ers name Elton Brand general manager

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Elton Brand is in charge of the Philadelphia 76ers.

A person familiar with the situation says the Sixers have made Brand their new general manager, replacing Bryan Colangelo. Colangelo resigned in June as the 76ers' president of basketball operations after what an investigation concluded was "careless and in some instances reckless" sharing of sensitive team information on Twitter.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the move had not been officially announced. Brand is expected to be introduced at a news conference on Thursday.

Brand had worked for the Sixers as vice president of operations and also served as the general manager of the Delaware Blue Coats, the 76ers' G League affiliate.

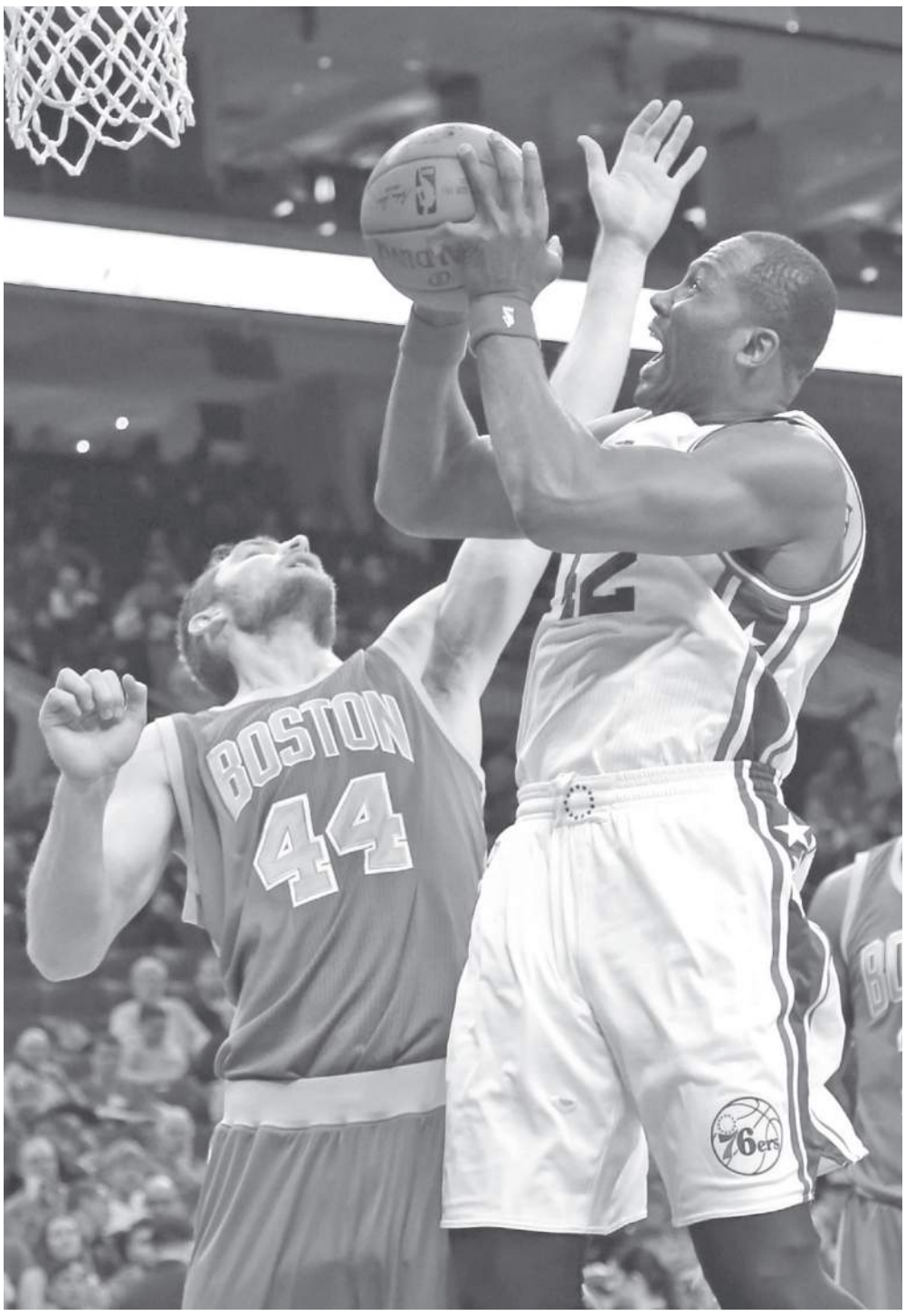
Brand was the No. 1 pick of the 1999 draft by the Chicago Bulls and played two stints with the Sixers.

Sixers coach Brett Brown had served as Philadelphia's interim GM and said earlier Tuesday he wasn't interested in holding both jobs. Brown pledged the Sixers would name a general manager before the season started.

"This is not something that interests me. I do not believe in the role that I have as a head coach that it's tenable," Brown said. "We will have, to the best of my knowledge, a general manager appointed, announced by the start of the season. And it's not me. It was never going to be."

Hours later, the Sixers had their guy.

Brand played in 1,058 career games over 18 seasons with the Bulls, the Los Angeles Clippers, Dallas, Atlanta and the Sixers. He posted career averages of 16 points, nine rebounds, two assists and two blocks per game. A two-time All-Star and the 2000 rookie of the year, Brand was also the recipient of the 2005-06 Joe Dumars Trophy, presented each season to the player who exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship on the court.



AP

Philadelphia 76ers forward Elton Brand, right, is fouled by Boston Celtics center Tyler Zeller (44) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 20, 2016, in Philadelphia.

The person familiar with the decisions also said Ned Cohen will remain assistant general manager and Marc Eversley will stay as senior vice president of player personnel. They both interviewed for the GM job. Alex Rucker was promoted to executive vice president of basketball operations.

The Sixers won 52 games last season and beat Miami in the first round of the playoffs before they were eliminated in the conference semifinals by Boston. Under Brown's watch, Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons have blossomed into two of the top young players in the league.

The Sixers were rocked when an independent review found that Colangelo's wife, Barbara Bottini, operated four Twitter accounts it investigated, and she admitted using private information to criticize the Sixers and rival colleagues.

Colangelo and his predecessor Sam Hinkie, who hired Brown, had the final say in player personnel decisions. Brown said he was looking "for a partner" in personnel moves with the new GM.

"I do have a voice. I've always had a voice here," Brown said. "I think as the head coach, it should be that, to a point. I get the role of the general manager."

Brown said losing Colangelo was a "game-changer" but said his absence or lack of a general manager had nothing to do with the Sixers striking out in their bid to land LeBron James, Kawhi Leonard, Paul George, a lower-tier free agent — or anyone beyond a couple of modest pickups such as Wilson Chandler.

"I think we would all be naive to think free agents choose a basketball program because of a general manager," Brown said. "They come because of Joel and Ben. And I hope the coach has got a little bit to do with it."

He added: "The general manager situation had zero to do with us not being able to acquire one of those talents."

Brown, who took the 76ers from 10 wins to the third seed in the Eastern Conference in just two seasons, agreed in May to a three-year contract extension that runs through the 2021-2022 season

$15M champ prize highlights changes to 2019 FedEx Cup

ATLANTA—Previous reports suggested major changes were in the FedEx Cup's future. On Tuesday, the PGA Tour made them official.

Commissioner Jay Monahan announced that, beginning in 2019, the tour's postseason will feature several modifications, highlighted by a simplified scoring system, monetary rewards for regular-season performance and an increased payout for the FedEx Cup champ.

"This is a significant and exciting change for the PGA Tour, our players, our partners and—most importantly—our fans," Monahan said. "As soon as the Tour Championship begins, any fan—no matter if they've followed the PGA Tour all season or are just tuning in for the final event—can immediately understand what's going on and what's at stake for every single player in the field. And, of course, players will know exactly where they stand at all times while in play, which will ratchet up the drama, consequence and volatility of the competition down the stretch."

In line with the reports leading up to Tuesday, rather than a points reset at the season finale, the tour will implement a descending strokes-based system calibrated off the playoff standings. Meaning, the player with the most amount of points after the BMW Championship will start the Tour Championship at 10 under par. The following four in rankings will begin at eight under through five under; the next five start at four under, regressing by one stroke for every five players. Those ranked No 26 through 30 will tee off at even par.

This configuration ensures that the player with the lowest total score at East Lake will be the FedEx Cup champion. (Unlike last year, where Xander Schauffele won the Tour Championship but Justin Thomas captured the FedEx Cup.) Despite this staggered scoring, the Tour Championship will still count as an official victory.

"Compared to the current system, the beauty here is in the simplicity," Monahan said. "Fans are very familiar with golf leader boards in relation to par, so they will have a clear understanding of the impact every shot makes during the final run for the FedEx Cup—ultimately leading to a singular champion without conflicting storylines."

Also of note is a new season-long race—the Wyndham Rewards Top 10—that ends at the conclusion of the regular season. The top-10 finishers in the FedEx Cup at the Wyndham Championship will see their bank accounts padded, with the leader earning $2 million, runner-up $1.5 million and 10th-place finisher getting $500,000.

"We are excited to unveil the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 next year, which will place an even greater premium on excelling over the course of the regular season," said Andy Pazder, chief tournament and competitions officer for the PGA Tour. "Season-long success is tantamount to qualifying for and advancing through the FedEx Cup Playoffs, and this is an exciting way to reward the best of the best and provide an added layer of drama for our fans in each market and around the world."

And sticking on the money front, the existing FedEx Cup bonus pool will increase by $25 million, to $60 million. The FedEx Cup champion will receive $15 million for his efforts, up from the $10 million prize from previous campaigns.

These changes coincide with other alterations to the schedule, including the Players moving to March and the postseason condensed from four events to three.

"Our players and fans have invested in the FedEx Cup over the past 12 seasons, and with these enhancements, we are reinvesting in the FedEx Cup in order to raise the stakes, so to speak, for their benefit," Monahan said.

North and South Korea plan to bid for 2032 Summer Olympics

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in said in a statement Wednesday that the countries planned to jointly bid for the 2032 Summer Olympics.

At a major summit, the two leaders gave no details of which cities might host certain events at the games, or how advanced the plans were.

The International Olympic Committee traditionally does not announce host cities until seven years ahead of the games. That would give the Koreas until 2025 to put together a joint bid.

Germany has already announced plans for a multi-city bid for 2032, as has Brisbane, Australia. The India Olympic Committee has also indicated its interest in hosting the 2032 Games.

A successful bid by the Koreas would mark the second time South Korea hosted or co-hosted the Summer Games, the first being 1988 in Seoul. South Korea also hosted the Pyeongchang Winter Games in February.

Asia also features in the next two Olympics — the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, which also hosted the summer version in 2008.

Yanks nip Red Sox, deny Boston division clincher

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Walker hit a three-run homer, Zach Britton started a game-ending double play on New York's third try in the ninth inning and the Yankees kept the Boston Red Sox from a bubbly celebration in the Bronx for at least another night with a 3-2 victory Tuesday.

Batting from the left side, Walker golfed a no-doubter in the seventh inning off Ryan Brasier for the Yankees' third hit of the game and a 3-1 lead. Walker dropped his bat, admired the shot for a moment and then pointed into the Yankees dugout as he jogged to first base.

Aaron Judge returned to New York's lineup for the first time since breaking his right wrist July 26, while AL MVP candidate Mookie Betts got a day off for Boston after injuring his left side Sunday. Judge hit a pop fly to the warning track but finished 0 for 4.

New York entered the night with a 1 1/2-game lead over Oakland for the top AL wild card. The A's hosted the Angels later.

Boston is trying to clinch the AL East at Yankee Stadium for the second time in three years. The Red Sox lead the Yankees by 10 1/2 games and entered the night with a magic number of four over the Astros to lock up baseball's best record.

The game started about six hours after it was supposed to begin. Originally scheduled for 1:05 p.m., it was pushed back earlier in the morning because heavy rain was in the forecast.

Chad Green (8-2) and David Robertson relieved J.A. Happ and got the ball to Britton, who capped a five-hitter for his sixth save.

Boston reliever Brandon Workman (6-1) walked two in the seventh before Walker took Brasier deep. The Red Sox bullpen wasted six scoreless innings of two-hit ball from hard-throwing starter Nathan Eovaldi.

Cardinals 8, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer, Yadier Molina added a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning and St. Louis won ITS third straight game.

Austin Gomber pitched five effective innings for St. Louis, which holds a slim lead for the second NL wild card. The Cardinals top the National League with 36 victories since All-Star break, and their 43 road wins this season rank second.

Atlanta's division lead dropped to 5½ games over Philadelphia as the Braves lost their fourth in a row after a season-best six-game winning streak. They are 38-38 at SunTrust Park and have dropped 14 of 18 at home.

The Braves' magic number remained at seven as they try to clinch a division title for the first time in five years. Philadelphia beat the New York Mets 5-2.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, The Orioles fell to Toronto, dropping their 108th game, a team record for losses in a season since they arrived in Baltimore in 1954.

The 1988 Orioles, who opened the season 0-21, held the previous team record for losses with a 54-107 finish. The overall franchise record for defeats is 111, set by the 1939 St. Louis Browns—a mark this year's team could still eclipse.

The Orioles led 4-2 in the seventh before a throwing error by third baseman Steve Wilkerson on a grounder by Teoscar Hernández allowed two runs to score. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. followed with a two-RBI single off reliever Paul Fry that that gave Toronto a 6-4 lead.

Pirates 2, Royals 1, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Ryan Lavarnway drove in the winning run with a single in the 11th inning and Jameson Taillon struck out a career-high 11 for Pittsburgh.

It was just the second at-bat of the season for the 30-year-old Lavarnway, the Pirates' fourth-string catcher. He hit .288 in 77 games in with Triple-A Indianapolis. Lavarnway has played 142 career games with five teams.

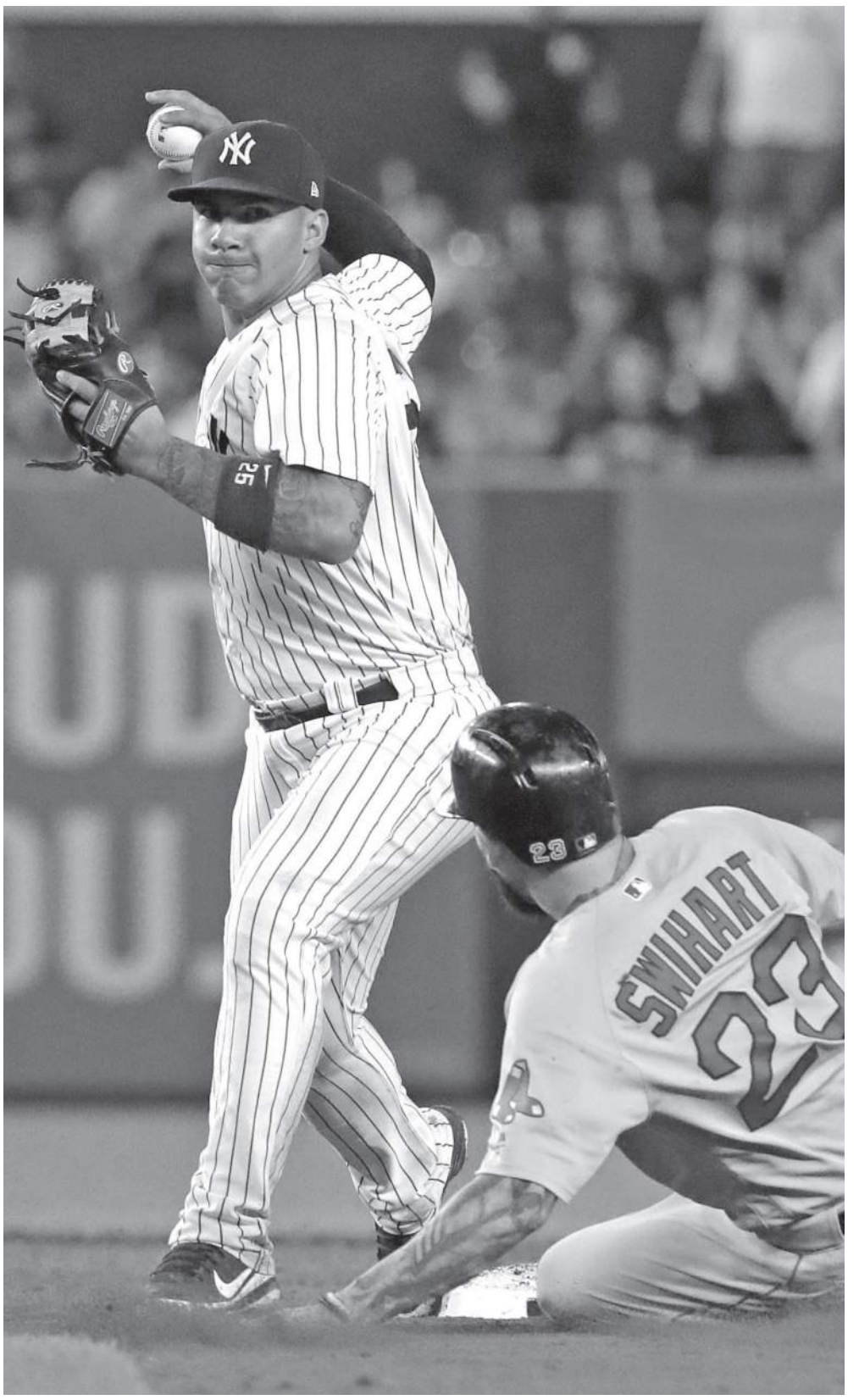
Starling Marte led off the 11th with an infield single off Burch Smith (1-6). Josh Bell walked and Burch struck out Francisco Cervelli before Adam Frazier was intentionally walked to load the bases, setting up Lavarnway's walk-off hit to shallow center.

Reds 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Jose Peraza capitalized on Chase Anderson's home run troubles with a drive in the first inning and Cincinnati dealt Milwaukee its third loss in four games.

The Brewers' edge for the top NL wild-card spot was cut to two games by St. Louis, with Colorado also in close contention.

Milwaukee managed only three hits against five Cincinnati pitchers. It was the third low-scoring loss for the Brewers in four games — they fell to Pittsburgh 3-1 on Saturday and 3-2 on Sunday.



AP

New York Yankees shortstop Gleyber Torres, left, turns a double play as Boston Red Sox's Blake Swihart (23) tries to break it up on a grounder by Ian Kinsler to end a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018, in New York. The Yankees won, 3-2.

Michael Lorenzen, making his first start since 2015 after 151 relief appearances, allowed one unearned run on one hit in four innings. Sal Romano (8-11) followed with 2 1/3 scoreless innings for the victory.

Phillies 5, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, Jorge Alfaro hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the sixth inning and Philadelphia boosted its faint playoff hopes.

Philadelphia overcame an uneven outing from ace Aaron Nola and a home run by starter Steven Matz that made him the third Mets pitcher to homer in consecutive appearances.

The Phillies won for the third time in 10 games and moved within 5 ½ games of Atlanta in the NL East. The Braves lost 8-1 to St. Louis.

Wilson Ramos and Justin Bour delivered pinch-hit RBI hits in a five-run sixth before Alfaro drilled a curveball from Drew Smith (1-1) to left-center for his 10th homer.

And with that, Matz's eventful performance was wasted by the Mets.

Nationals 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, Stephen Strasburg matched his season-high with 11 strikeouts and Bryce Harper tied a season high with five walks to lead Washington.

Anthony Rendon drove in two runs for the Nationals (77-75), who moved to within 6 ½ games of the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves, who lost 8-1 to St. Louis.

Strasburg (9-7) pitched six innings and allowed two runs and five hits with two walks. At one point, he struck out six consecutive batters.

Sean Doolittle pitched a perfect ninth for his 25th save in 26 opportunities.

Sandy Alcantara (2-1) pitched four innings for the Marlins and allowed six hits, six walks, and three runs.

Twins 5, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Chris Gimenez homered and Tyler Austin drove in three runs to lead the Twins.

The Twins have won three straight, while the Tigers have lost seven of nine.

Mikie Mahtook drove in all of Detroit's runs.

Jake Odorizzi (7-10) allowed two runs on four hits in 6 1/3 innings. He walked one and struck out six in his first start since losing a no-hitter in the eighth inning against the New York Yankees.

Trevor Hildenberg pitched the ninth for his seventh save, allowing Mahtook's two-out RBI single.

Indians 5, White Sox 3

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber struck out 11 in eight innings to record his career-high 19th win for Cleveland.

Kluber (19-7), who allowed three runs, topped 200 strikeouts for the fifth straight season. Kluber won 18 games in three of the previous four seasons, including his two AL Cy Young Award-winning years, 2014 and 2017.

Omar Narvaez walked and Matt Davidson singled with two outs in the eighth, but Kluber retired Ryan LaMarre on a groundout.

Indians All-Star second baseman Jose Ramirez was hit on the left arm by Carlos Rodon's pitch in the fifth inning and walked from the plate in obvious pain. Ramirez spoke with manager Terry Francona and a team trainer, but stayed in the game.

Rays 4, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Blake Snell became the major leagues' first 20-game winner in two years, pitching Tampa Bay past Texas.

Snell (20-5) threw one-hit ball for five innings and tied the Tampa Bay record for victories in a season. David Price also won 20 in his Cy Young Award season of 2012.

Snell won his eighth straight start. The 25-year-old lefty struck out five, walked two and threw 92 pitches, exiting with a 1.97 ERA.

Tampa Bay has won four straight and 13 of 16 this month in a last-ditch attempt to wrest the AL second wild-card playoff berth from Oakland. The Rays began the day trailing the A's by 6 ½ games.

The Rays scored three times in the fourth against Yovani Gallardo (8-6). Willie Adames hit a two-run homer and Joey Wendle had an RBI double.

Astros 7, Mariners 0

In Houston, Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in a four-run third inning that helped Houston eliminate Seattle from contention for the AL West title.

Houston entered the day four games ahead of Oakland atop the division standings. The Athletics played later against the Angels.

Rookie starter Josh James (1-0) struck out seven and scattered four hits over 5 1/3 innings for his first major league win. Four relievers completed the shutout.

Seattle starter Mike Leake (10-10) yielded six hits and five runs in 6 1/3 innings to snap a two-game winning streak.

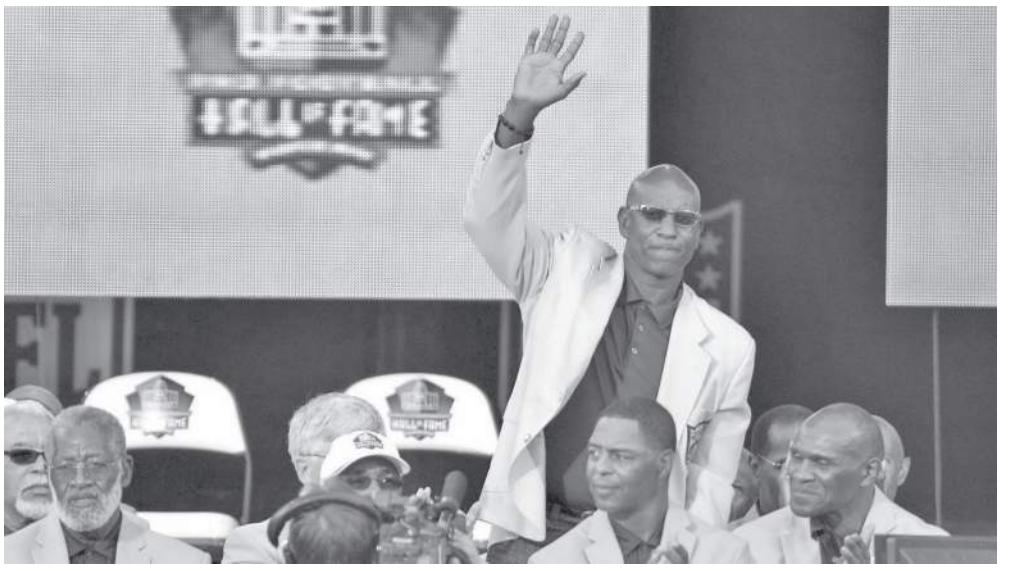
Hall of Fame members threaten boycott of inductions

NEW YORK (AP)—A group of Pro Football Hall of Famers led by Eric Dickerson is demanding health insurance coverage and a share of NFL revenues or else those former players will boycott the induction ceremonies.

In a letter sent to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith and Hall of Fame President David Baker—and obtained by The Associated Press—21 Hall of Fame members cited themselves as "integral to the creation of the modern NFL, which in 2017 generated $14 billion in revenue."

Among the signees were Dickerson, who is listed as chairman of the newly created Hall of Fame Board the group has formed; Jim Brown; Joe Namath; Lawrence Taylor; and Sarah White, the widow of Reggie White.

There were questions, though, about how well-organized the group was. Two players whose names are on the letter said they were not part of the boycott effort. Another name on the list of 22 signees including Sarah White was Carl Ellard, but no one by that name has played professional football. Former Vikings defensive end Carl Eller, however, is a Hall of Famer.



AP

In this Aug. 2, 2014, file photo, enshrinee Eric Dickerson is introduced during the Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony, in Canton, Ohio. A group of Pro Football Hall of Famers is demanding health insurance coverage and a share of NFL revenues or else those former players will boycott the induction ceremonies.

"The time has come for us to be treated as part of a game we've given so much to," the letter states. "Until our demands are met, the Hall of Famers will not attend the annual induction ceremony in Canton. It's well known that the NFL is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020, and while we are proud of our role in building this league, we don't believe 100 years of player exploitation is something to celebrate."

The strongly worded letter called out the league for paying Goodell $40 million, saying "there are better uses for that money." It also criticized Smith for his salary and the lack of a former player on the players' association executive board. But there have been two former players on that executive board since 2009.

Jerry Rice, whose name is on the letter, said he wasn't on the Hall of Fame Board. And in a statement on Twitter , the former wide receiver said he plans to support the Hall of Fame and "looks forward to attending the 100th anniversary in 2020."

Kurt Warner also released a statement on Twitter that said he wasn't made aware of the letter and said his name was mistakenly put on it. He said he supports the efforts for better benefits for all retired players and doesn't believe in boycotting the Hall of Fame.

Baker said the Hall seeks to help all players, not just those enshrined in Canton, Ohio.

"Many Hall of Famers have reached out to express their support of the Hall," he said in a statement.

"While we enshrine Hall of Famers, our mission is to serve every player who helped build this great game. We guard the legacies and seek to serve all players and not just Hall of Famers who we serve every day."

NFL players have received a pension since the Bert Bell Plan, named after a former league commissioner, was created in 1959. In the 1993 collective bargaining agreement, a 401K plan to which players also could contribute was established, and in 1998 an annuity program was created.

"There have been significant increases in the pension with every collective bargaining agreement in the history of this sport," said Miki Yaras-Davis, the NFLPA's senior director of benefits.

"The normal retirement age is 55 for former players, and those players can leave in their pension (funds) and at 65 they have almost a 300 percent increase. This is one of the few defined benefit plans left in the country. It's a program which isn't seen much anymore that defines the benefits at a certain age."

During the 2011 labor dispute and lockout, one of the main issues was establishing a fund for pre-1993 players. In that CBA, a "Legacy Fund" was established, with a $620 million increase in benefits, with team owners contributing out of their share of revenues for the first time. The union and the league have increased pensions three times for former players since 2011.

But the letter calls the Legacy Fund "little more than cynical public relations ploys that fail to help those who desperately need it."

"The total cost for every Hall of Famer to have health insurance is less than $4 million—less than that of a 30-second Super Bowl ad, or about 3 cents for every $100 the league generates in revenue," Dickerson's letter states.

"Paying Hall of Famers an annual salary works out to about 40 cents for every $100 in annual revenue, a figure that will increase dramatically in the near future with legalized gambling."

The disgruntled former players also took aim at the expansion of the Hall of Fame into a village that Baker has estimated will eventually cost $1 billion. The NFL provides significant funding for the hall, but equally significant costs for the project are funded elsewhere.

DEADLINES

From Page 28

resenting the Commonwealth in the Pacific Games are basketball (men's and women's 3x3 and 5x5), sailing, swimming, tennis, beach and indoor volleyball, weightlifting, and rugby.

Team Marianas has until Jan. 7 next year to confirm the final numerical entries, as registration on the competition website will start on Jan. 31. Then the deadline for submission of entries by names is set for May 22 or 45 days before the Pacific Games kick off. NMSA president Michael White, during the group's meeting this month, reminded local sports federations sending teams/athletes to Samoa that there are no fines for squads that will back out from the competition. However, they still have to be conscious about the deadlines to avoid problems in accommodations and flights in Samoa. White also urged CNMI teams to start fundraising for their participation in the Pacific Games.

Also set for May 22 is the payment for 30 percent of per diem charges. Per diem is set at $35. The next 30 percent should be settled by June 6, while the remaining 40 must be paid by June 30. NMASA has yet to discuss the financial assistance that delegates to the games will receive. In this year's Micronesian Games in Yap, the group gave each athlete/official $500 financial aid.

Meanwhile, other key dates in next year's Pacific Games are June 6 and July 14, which are set for the accreditation of all officials and opening of the Athletes Village, respectively.

The CNMI, during the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, sent athletes in the swimming, canoe, triathlon, sailing, and beach volleyball competitions and missed bringing home medals from Port Moresby. The host country topped the medal standings with its 88 golds, 69 silver, and 60 bronze, while New Caledonia (59-50-57) and Tahiti (39-34-40) rounded out the Top 3.

SAIPAN

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will be the fourth Guam Muay Thai fighter that will debut in ROP 24, as he battles Zombie MMA's Manny "The Kid" Camacho. Tonesha "Queen Tee' Cruz will be featured in the first kickboxing match, but the Guam Muay Thai bet's opponent in the 100-110 lbs class has yet to be announced.

For the MMA fight card, there will be nine bouts, including the Vince Torres versus Pejo Camacho duel.

Torres of Team Rage will have his first fight of the year against Camacho of Steel Athletics Guam. Camacho has been out of the octagon cage for nearly two years after losing his lone bout (to Frank Meno) at PXC 56 in November 2016, leaving Torres the slight favorite in the last MMA match in ROP 24 before the Saipan vs Guam feature. Torres holds a 2-1 record with his defeat coming from Guam's Joey Crisostomo Jr. last year in ROP 21.

Other MMA pairings next month will have Austin Indalecio battling Team MeZZing's Anua Kenty; Guam's Austin Gaspay facing Team Zalaka's Bradlee "Kaboom" Manalo; and Guam Muay Thai's Austin " Auzzy P" Petros meeting Down2Scrap's Jonathan "No Love" Camacho. Down2Scrap's Jadrien Camacho, ZomvieMMA's Travis Camacho, Jessme "Don't Test Me" Jones, Steel Athletics' Jerome Fujihira, and Guam's Cavin Castro will also fight on the the eight sides next month and their respective opponents will be announced later.

Meanwhile, Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama of Rota, Patrick Ongcangco, Robby "The Rebel" Rabago of Talafofo Fight Club, Justin Cangco, Lucas "The Irish Zombie" and HBP's Junar Jesus and Darren Taitano are the standby fighters for ROP 24. The fight card is tentative and subject to changes.

EARLY

From Page 28

Gregoire countered with a kill that the Lady Dolphins failed to return with the ball ramming into the net and falling down.

The SIS-MHS tiff was played on the south court, while over the north side, Saipan Southern swept Agape Christian School. The Lady Rays duplicated the Geckos' automatic victory after posting a 25-7, 25-10 win over the Torchbearers. Saipan Southern went on to complete the shutout after easing past Agape in the third set, 15-5.

In other results, Mt. Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy also won their respective games last Tuesday.

The Lady Knights challenged MHS in an earlier game and eked out a 26-24 victory in the first set. It was a come-from-behind win for Mt. Carmel, as it faced a 5-12 deficit midway in the opening set and MHS was still ahead, 21-18, when the Lady Knights fought back to steal the victory.

Then in the second set, Mt. Carmel was in control from start to finish for a 25-17 triumph that gave the squad the outright win. MHS and Mt. Carmel still played the third set (as per tournament rules) and the Lady Dolphins finally prevailed, 15-8.

GCA also swept Kagman High School in the first two sets before the Lady Ayuyus took the third. GCA cruised to a 25-10 win in the opening set and got the early victory after dominating Kagman anew in the second, 25-10. The Lady Ayuyus averted a shutout loss by taking the third set, 15-8.

Meanwhile, MHS (2) and Mt. Carmel's junior varsity teams and GCA JV and MHS JV 1 were also scheduled to collide last Tuesday, but results of their games were unavailable as of press time.

Today, four regular matches and two make-up ones will be played. In the first tiff at 4:30 on the north court, Mt. Carmel will face GCA, while Kagman and Saipan Southern will square off on the south side. In the second games at 5:30pm, Mt. Carmel will meet Agape on the north court and MHS will take on Kagman on the south. For the pair of make-up games at 6:30pm, Agape and MHS will duel on the north court and GCA clashes with Saipan Southern on the south end.

The girls high school division is still in the first round of the regular season, which is scheduled to wrap up on Oct. 11. The double-elimination playoffs will then take place on Oct. 12 and 13 with Rota and Tinian squads joining Saipan teams in the battle for the division crown.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	103	48	.682	—
New York	92	58	.613	10½
Tampa Bay	84	66	.560	18½
Toronto	69	82	.457	34
Baltimore	43	108	.285	60

Central Division

x-Cleveland	84	66	.560	—
Minnesota	70	81	.464	14½
Detroit	61	90	.404	23½
Chicago	59	91	.393	25
Kansas City	52	99	.344	32½

West Division

Houston	95	56	.629	—
Oakland	90	61	.596	5
Seattle	83	68	.550	12
Los Angeles	75	76	.497	20
Texas	64	87	.424	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	83	68	.550	—
Philadelphia	77	73	.513	5½
Washington	77	75	.507	6½
New York	70	81	.464	13
Miami	59	92	.391	24

Central Division

Chicago	89	62	.589	—
Milwaukee	86	66	.566	3½
St. Louis	84	68	.553	5½
Pittsburgh	76	74	.507	12½
Cincinnati	65	87	.428	24½

West Division

Los Angeles	84	68	.553	—
Colorado	82	69	.543	1½
Arizona	78	74	.513	6
San Francisco	72	80	.474	12
San Diego	60	92	.395	24

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI vs Tajikistan at AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members of the CNMI U16 Women's National Team's starting unit pose for a photo before playing against host Tajikistan in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers last Monday in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan players pose for a photo before facing the CNMI bets.

CNMI captain Khristelle Itaas, fifth left, her counterpart in Tajikistan, second left, and game officials gather for a group photo.

The CNMI's Julianne Hall, right, collides with a Tajikistan player as they fight for possession.

The CNMI's Paulyn Joyce, second left, beats a Tajikistan player to the ball.

The CNMI's Katrina Costales, second left, keeps a close eye on a Tajikistan player, while the Jannah Casarino, third left, gets ready to provide help defense.

CNMI goalkeeper coach Jimmy Tang, fourth left, joins representatives of Tajikistan, Singapore, Thailand, and Iran in the press conference for the competition last week.

76ers name Elton Brand general manager

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yanks nip Red Sox, deny Boston division clincher

PAGE 25

Early wins for SIS, SSHS

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School's Maria Gregoire spikes the ball during the second set of their game against Marianas High School in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School and Saipan Southern High School earned outright victories over their respective opponents in the girls high school division of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Geckos eased past MHS in the first set, 25-11, and then labored through a 25-20 victory in the second to take the early win. The Geckos and Lady Dolphins went back and forth in the second set before SIS managed to gain cushion in the later part of that period, taking a 19-14 lead. However, MHS refused to give up and rallied within two, 19-21, forcing SIS coach Mili Saiki to call timeout.

The lull worked to the Geckos' advantage, as Maury Zon Tybaco scored off a spike and SIS got another point from MHS' shot that hit the net for a 23-20 lead. The Lady Dolphins scored their 20th point off the Geckos' error and that was the former's last, as SIS moved closer to victory when MHS' spike went wide off to the backline. Then SIS' Maria

See EARLY on Page 26

PACIFIC XTREME COMBAT PHOTO
Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, left, seen here punching Emilio Urrutia during their bout in PXC 54, will return to the octagon cage next month when he competes in Rites of Passage 24: Ragin' Rumble.

Saipan vs Guam in ROP 24

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fight card for next month's Rites of Passage 24: Ragin' Rumble has a long list, as 16 bouts are scheduled in Trench Tech's second offering for the season.

Trench Tech's very own Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, Vince "The Clinch" Masga, and Mark "The Dark Nuique" will be featured in the Saipan vs Guam triple-header. Alvarez will be pitted against Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig in their 145-lb bout, while Masga will battle Vida BJJ Guam's Zach Benavente, and Nuique will fight the latter's teammate, Pete Benavente.

Before the Trench Tech trio sees action on the eight sides, two boxing matches will kick off ROP 24, which is set for Oct. 26 at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot. Trench Tech's Ton Borja will clash with Steel Athletics' Steve Kassala in the 135-lb boxing bout, while the other fist fight will have Guam Muay Thai's Jerreck Bagay challenging either Dion Reyes or Tatian Grajo of High Blood Pressure Guam in the 155-lb weight class.

Next up for the Ragin' Rumble are four kickboxing bouts. Guam Muay Thai's Kevin Ishmael will square off with Trench Tech's Ko "PakPak" Palacios at 155 lbs, while the former's teammate Eric "Young ASAP" Lacambra will duel another Trench Tech standout, Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho in the 135-lb weight class. Chris "Doc Syndicate" Rendina

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Deadlines for 2019 Pacific Games set

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Submission of the initial number of entries for countries that will be competing in the XVI Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa is due at the end of October this year.

The Oct. 31 deadline is among the key dates organizers of the quadrennial released to island-nations that will send delegates to the competition, which will be held from July 7 to 20.

The CNMI, during the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting early this month, estimated that over 100 athletes and officials will head to Samoa next year to play in several sports. Athletics has initially committed six athletes (three male and female each) and a coach, while canoe plans to send 18 athletes (men and women's teams) and four coaches. Other sports that have expressed interest in rep-

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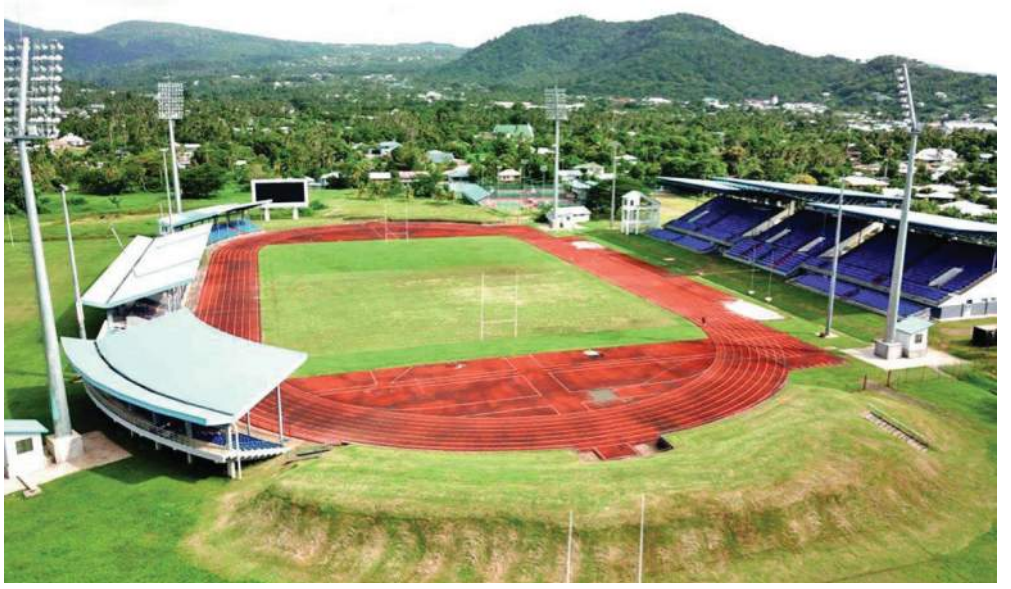

SAMOA PACIFIC GAMES
The Apia Park National Stadium will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2019 Pacific Games and other competitions in next year's event.